# NORFOLK SCHOOLS FORUM

# AGENDA

Meeting on Friday 14 May 2021 09:00 – 11:30

This will be a remote Teams Meeting

Individual members, named below, are asked to provide verbal reports for these items.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **09:00 – 09:05** | **1** | **Welcome and Introductions****Apologies** | **Report** |  |
| **09:05 – 09:15** | **2** | **Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising*** Further contact with Eastern Region School Forum re. joint letter to DfE (Martin White)
* Letter to Secretary of State from past and present chair of Forum (Martin White)
 |  | **2 - 6** |
| **09:15 – 11:15** | **3** | **Dedicated Schools Grant**1. DSG Outturn 2020/21 (paper attached)
* Martin Brock
1. DSG Recovery Plan Update (paper attached) - Dawn Filtness
2. Presumption Route pre-and-post-opening costs (paper on website) - Sebastian Gasse
 | **Information****Information****Decision** | **7 - 21****22 - 29** |
| **11:15 – 11:20** | **4** | **Annual Audit Report**  | **Information** | **30** |
| **11:20 – 11:30** | **5** | **Review Future Meeting Plan (separate paper)**Dawn Filtness | **Decision** |  |
|  | **6** | **Date of Next Meeting****School Forum**Friday 9 July 2021 09:00 – 11.30 hours |  |  |

**Norfolk Schools Forum**

**Minutes of Meeting held on Friday 12 March 2021**

**09:15 – 11:45 hours**

**Teams Meeting**

**Present: Representing**

Paul Bland, (Sub)West Norfolk Academies

Trust Academies

Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne Academies

Keith Bates, Eaton Hall Specialist Academy Special School Academy

Chris Caddamy, (Vice Chair) City College 16 – 19 Representative

Lacey Douglass Early Years Representative

Alan Evans, Eastern MAT Academies

Mike Grimble, Avenue Junior School Primary Maintained Governors

Bob Groome JCC ( secondary phase)

Glyn Hambling, Unity Education Trust Alternative Provision

Howard Nelson, Diocese of Norwich Diocesan Board of Education

Clare Jones, Boudica Schools Trust Academies

Adrian Lincoln (sub) JCC (primary phase)

Peter Pazitka, SJB CMAT Academies

Joanne Philpott, City of Norwich School Academies

David Shaw, Creative Education Trust Academies

Sarah Shirras, St Williams Primary Primary Maintained Schools

Joanna Tuttle, Aylsham High School Secondary Maintained Schools

Vicky Warnes JCC (primary phase)

Martin White, (Chair) Nebula Federation Primary Maintained Governors

Martin Brock Accountant

Sally Cutting Senior Accountant

John Crowley Assistant Director Learning and

 Achievement

Marilyn Edgeley Admin Officer

Dawn Filtness Finance Business Partner

Chris Snudden Assistant Director (Education)

**Apologies:**

Carol Jacques Maintained Nursery School

Sarah Porter, The Heart Education Trust Academies

Joanna Rand, Hall School Maintained Special Schools

Sara Tough Executive Director Childrens Services

1. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Carole Jacques, Joanna Rand and Sarah Porter with

Paul Bland attending as an Academy Substitute.

1. **Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2021 were accepted as a true record.

* **Joint letter to the government with other School Forums in the Eastern Region on insufficient funding for the High Needs Block.**

Officers reported receiving a letter from the Department for Education (DfE) following the High Needs Recovery Meeting refusing our disapplication request and were not in agreement with the reasons given for that refusal.

The letter stated that the dis-application request was rejected because the authority’s plans were underdeveloped and consequently was not supported by Schools Forum.

A strongly worded reply was sent from Sara Tough to the Deputy Director who oversees school funding and to the team who sent the letter objecting to the incorrect assumptions made. A letter was also sent from Cllr John Fisher (Lead Member for Children’s Services) to Gavin Williamson (Secretary of State) to advise that, contrary to these incorrect assumptions, the authority had, in fact, extensive plans in place. NCC has received a sympathetic reply from the DfE, with some apology, though there was no reference to some issues raised. Norfolk County Council (NCC) will be making a further response.

A first draft has been prepared of a letter to be sent to the Secretary of State jointly from the current Chair and previous Chair of Forum.

Successful contact has been with some Eastern Region Schools Forums in relation to the sending of a joint letter, but this is at early days of co-ordinating something.

**Action:**

* **Further contact to be made with Eastern Region Schools Forums that have responded positively to the suggestion of a joint letter being sent. Continue to keep other Forums in the loop.**
* **Letter to the Secretary of State from past Chair and current Chair of Forum to be sent ASAP to correct the assumption that the School Forum was not aware of the authorities plans for the DSG Recovery.**
1. **Dedicated Schools Grant**

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)**

The Chair of SACRE has provided the circulated report however Officers understand this does not fully address the issues raised so we will give a brief update of how funding for SACRE works.

The DSG contributes £5,000 per year to SACRE. Officers are responsible for making sure SACRE works as a body. Norfolk SACRE has worked extremely well in creating a syllabus which is getting recognition and is seen as a model of good practice. The authority supports SACRE with an officer, Sarah Burgess, as a senior advisor. None of the £5,000 is used for the local authority part of that operation, but SACRE do need funding to facilitate clerking and funding for travel expenses and supply claims. Funding is also required for accessing professional advice and for implementing and monitoring the syllabus.

The funding is in SACRE’s control but as it goes through NCC books, we make sure that there is due process in the way procurement is working.

With the current public health situation they have struggled spending the money but are now commencing the monitoring phase of the syllabus implementation. All schools, apart from faith schools, have to implement the SACRE syllabus.

**High Needs Block Update**

This item is supported by a PowerPoint presentation from Michael Bateman, Programme Director Special Educational Needs & Alternative Provision. Officers wanted to share information on the Department for Education (DfE) High Needs Block Consultation sent out to Local Authorities. Additionally, there has also been a letter from the Children’s Minister sent to families about Covid and Special Educational Needs, and Officers also wanted to share with Forum the likely themes of a forthcoming consultation, from the DfE, regarding the outcome of The SEND National Review.

Authorities have until the 24 March to respond to the High Needs Block consultation; Officers took the opportunity to set out the questions within the consultation so that Schools Forum are aware of the LA’s planned response. The consultation is about the formula funding for 2022/23. Officers said they would keep in focus the SEND National Review when formulating a response to the consultation; the DfE themselves have set out that this HNB consultation is likely to be the first of a series to link with the National SEND Review outcomes in future years.

The presentation consists of 5 questions and members will be able to access this on the Schools Forum website after this meeting.

To access the presentation click on the link below:

<https://www.schools.norfolk.gov.uk/school-finance/norfolk-schools-forum/forum-agendas-and-papers>

The proposals could see an increase of £2.6m for the High Needs Block in Norfolk with the maximum 12% cap. If the cap is not applied this would be, approximately, double.

With regard to the forthcoming outcome of the National SEND Review, it was confirmed that Norfolk were invited to a ‘round table’ discussion with those leading the SEND review from the DfE and 12 other LA’s; this was at Director of Children’s Services level and, therefore, Norfolk is in a position to influence the review directly.

Note: the response to the consultation was submitted on 24 March and a copy of that response is available on the Agendas and Papers section of the Schools Forum web page which you can access by clicking the link below.

<https://www.schools.norfolk.gov.uk/school-finance/norfolk-schools-forum/forum-agendas-and-papers>

**Members Comments:**

Q. Good that the government are reviewing this. The base year 17/18 is £77m we are now currently at £99m so we are already £20m adrift. Can this be fed into the process?

*Response - Agree seems clear government not keen on going beyond 17/18 – using 18/19 data would be better and we can make this point and could point out that in 17/18 we were still in the process of transferring statements to EHCPs.*

**This paper is for information.**

**Pupil Variations 2021/22**

Officers brought estimated data that would be used in the APT submissions to the Forum Meeting in January. Actual figures are now available. The figure has changed by £240 because the consultation formula had a 1.73% Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) the final MFG was 1.66%.

**This paper is for information.**

1. **Scheme for Financing Schools**

New information has been issued from the DfE which results in a change to the Scheme for Financing Schools. Currently the Scheme states if a school is in the Building Maintenance Partnership (BMP) Scheme they cannot lodge maintenance money with the local authority. However, there are two schemes available: full membership, which includes maintenance, or compliance only membership. The intention here is that if schools are in the compliance only membership, and, therefore, not the maintenance contract part, that they would be able to lodge money for maintenance purposes. This is so that they are not disadvantaged and have an alternative to the BMP Scheme.

Due a mis-understanding at the time of preparing the report, the report was written as if it is already happening and that this is guidance catching up. However, it was subsequently identified that this was not the case and so School Forum approval is being sought.

**Member Comment:**

The compliance actually costs money (30%) if you are in the BMP Scheme, should this be netted against the total that can be lodged?

*It should not affect the amount that can be set aside for maintenance.*

Does this change have any administrative burden for the authority?

*It was thought not.*

Officers had concerns that if we have schools only in the compliance scheme and are unable to lodge money for maintenance, could be quite an issue around their financial planning and sustainability. The LA would want to encourage schools that are not part of the full BMP scheme to ensure that they have appropriate planning for maintenance costs.

**Schools Forum is asked to agree local changes to the wording of section 4.2 (e) of the Scheme for Financing Schools, required to bring it into line with existing guidance to schools for lodging maintenance monies with the local authority**

**Decision**

**Forum unanimously agreed the change of wording.**

1. **Review Future Meeting Plan**
* Agree Meeting Dates for next Academic Year

**Decision**

**Forum agreed the meeting dates going forward.**

1. **Mental Health Re-design**

Forum has looked briefly at this subject at various times. A contribution is made to CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services). This comes from the High Needs Block and amounts to around £4m.

Rebecca Hulme (Associate Director Children’s Services and CCG) is the lead for this work. Her team includes Kelly Semper and Rebecca Mann. Officers explained that the re-design is a very strategic and high level piece of work.

Rebecca and Kelly presented a PowerPoint presentation to Forum detailing the work that is taking place.. The presentation can be viewed on the Schools Forum page of the Norfolk Schools website. Click on link below to access the presentation:

<https://www.schools.norfolk.gov.uk/school-finance/norfolk-schools-forum/forum-agendas-and-papers>

Comments:

* The One Norfolk/Number is the focus of the Headteacher briefing on 23 March 2021.
* Thrive (not the Thrive School based model) applies to all ages and reflects what young people have told us – they initially want support from family and friends and we need to support these people. We do not want to miss opportunities to help people.
* Members said Headteacher Briefings would be a good way of getting the mental health re-design message across.
* Officers said that this is an exciting time and could result in a cutting edge service.
* Members said this sounds very positive – concerns that mental health support team will only have 60% coverage.

*Officers understand that government wants to get to 100% coverage by 2025.*

* Members highlighted that lots of staff have up skilled themselves during the pandemic and we need to respect what schools have been able to provide but have to understand their capacity.

*Officers said they want to thank education colleagues for the role they play.*

* There are 228 Schools that have at least one mental health champion and how this is promoted is very important; if anyone would like to find out more about this and the training to become a champion, then there is an email address on slide 8 of the presentation.

The Chair thanked everyone involved with the presentation.

1. **AOB**

It was highlighted by a member that there is a consultation on National Funding Formula on Sparsity and based on road journeys.

Officers will be responding to this consultation and think this would be an advantage for Norfolk.

1. **Date of next meeting**

14 May 2021 09:00 – 12:00

**Schools Forum**

**Item No.3a**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Report title:** | **DSG Final Outturn and Balances 2020-21** |
| **Date of meeting:** | **14 May 2021** |

**Executive summary**

|  |
| --- |
| The overall DSG outturn position for all four blocks was £12.093m[[1]](#footnote-1) overspend for 2020/21, including a significant overspend within the High Needs Block (£12.462m) offset by underspends within the Schools Block (-£0.152m) and Early Years Block (-£0.217m). The Central Schools Services Block was overspent by less than £0.001m.The combined cumulative year-on-year overspend on the Dedicated Schools Grant is now £31.797m.**This paper is for information only with the NCC’s Cabinet due to approve the final outturn position and balances in June. Comments from Forum are welcome and will be recorded.**  |

1. **Introduction**

This report outlines the final outturn for the dedicated schools grant for 2020/21.

The Dedicated Schools Grant funds the Schools Block, Central Schools Services Block, the High Needs Block, and the Early Years Block.

The Schools Block has two main elements, the amounts delegated to schools and the amounts held centrally for pupil related spending, this includes de-delegated budgets. Once delegated to schools any over or underspend is shown within school balances.

The Dedicated Schools Grant Budget and schools local funding formula for 2020/21 was agreed at Norfolk County Council’s January 2020 Cabinet meeting. The agenda papers and minutes can be viewed at:

<https://norfolkcc.cmis.uk.com/norfolkcc/Meetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/496/Meeting/1590/Committee/169/Default.aspx>

The Dedicated Schools Grant can only be used for specified purposes and must be accounted for separately from the other Children’s Services spending and funding.

1. **Variations on Dedicated Schools Grant Funded Budgets**

The overall DSG outturn position for all four blocks was £12.093m overspend for 2020/21, including a significant overspend within the High Needs Block (£12.462m) offset by underspends within the Schools Block (-£0.152m) and EY Block (-£0.217m). The Central Schools Services Block was overspent by less than £0.001m.

The deficit brought forward into the 2020/21 financial year was approximately £19.703m, and therefore the combined cumulative year-on-year overspend on the Dedicated Schools Grant deficit reserve carried forward at 31st March 2021 has increased to approximately £31.797m.

**Schools Block**

Schools Block funding was allocated to schools via the agreed funding formula for 2020/21, which mirrored National Funding Formula methodologies.

Only the agreed top-sliced growth fund of £965k and de-delegated items agreed by Schools Forum were retained centrally.

There was an underspend of -£0.152m against the centrally retained Schools Block elements, which can be attributed to a combination of rates savings from academy conversions and from the pro-rata clawback of budget share monies following the closure of Sedgeford Primary School.

There were overspends and underspends against the various de-delegated budgets as detailed in the table below, but in total those were offset by increases to prior year rates that had to be funded to schools following revaluations (for which there was no contingency fund to use as none had been de-delegated). The DfE have just undertaken a consultation on changing the approach to the payment of business rates, which, depending upon the outcome, may remove this revaluation risk for future years.

Whilst some of the variances against individual de-delegated budgets were significant (e.g. Maternity had a £0.147m overspend against the budgeted figure), the overall amount de-delegated during normal times is expected to still be correct. The individual budget figures used for 2020/21 were based on historic values and in recognition of this it was agreed at the November’20 Schools Forum meeting to update the budgets for each line from April 2021 onwards to more accurately reflect the expected spend on each, whilst maintaining the overall level of de-delegation at a similar level.

The -£0.152m total underspend on the Schools Block is to be transferred to the Dedicated Schools Grant reserve where it will partially offset the in-year overall DSG deficit.

**Table 1: Schools Block**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | Approved Budget £m | Outturn £m | Over +/Underspend (-)£m | Over +/Underspend (-) as a % of the budget |
| **Schools Block-Centrally retained items** |  |  |  |  |
| Growth Fund | 0.965 | 0.851 | -0.114 | -12% |
| Supply Special | 0.096 | 0.088 | -0.007 | -7% |
| Maternity | 0.574 | 0.721 | 0.147 | 26% |
| Suspended staff | 0.164 | 0.047 | -0.117 | -71% |
| Disabled staff | 0.023 | 0.000 | -0.023 | -100% |
| Redeployment/Safeguarding | 0.066 | 0.046 | -0.020 | -30% |
| Free Schools Meal Eligibility | 0.026 | 0.026 | 0.000 | 0% |
| Prior year Rates increases |  | 0.136 | 0.136 | n/a |
| Academy conversions/Closing school (Sedgeford) |  | -0.153 | -0.153 | n/a |
| **Centrally Retained Schools Block** | **1.914** | **1.762** | **-0.152** | **-8%** |

**Central Schools Services Block**

The Central Schools Services Block overspent by less than £0.001m overall.

Whilst most budgets had no variance at all, the Joint User Agreement and School Forum budgets had compensating variances as shown in the table below (and detailed in Appendix 1 for the Schools Forum budget).

The Joint User Agreement budget overspend of £0.050m was due to the final payment for cessation of the agreement, and School Forum will recall that from April 2021 onwards no further budget has been set aside, or required, for this purpose. Additionally, the Schools Forum budget has been reduced for 2021-22 to reflect ongoing, rather than historic commitments.

The overspend of £0.001m is included within the overall DSG deficit for the 2020/21 financial year, to be carried forward as part of the overall DSG deficit on reserves.

**Table 2: Central Schools Services Block**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | Approved Budget £m | Outturn £m | Over +/Underspend (-)£m | Over +/Underspend (-) as a % of the budget |
| **Central Schools Services Block** |  |  |  |  |
| Independent Pathfinder | 0.100 | 0.100 | 0.000 | 0% |
| Schools Forum\* | 0.070 | 0.020 | -0.049 | -70% |
| Termination of employment costs | 0.065 | 0.065 | 0.000 | 0% |
| Admissions | 0.487 | 0.487 | 0.000 | 0% |
| Director Education Projects | 0.120 | 0.120 | 0.000 | 0% |
| SACRE | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.000 | 0% |
| Joint User Agreement | 0.050 | 0.100 | 0.050 | 100% |
| ESG retained | 1.866 | 1.866 | 0.000 | 0% |
| **Central School Services Block** | **2.762** | **2.763** | **0.001** | **-0%** |

\* Breakdown of Schools Forum at Appendix 1

**High Needs Block**

For 2020/21 there was an overspend on the High Needs block of £12.462m. The HNB budget was set based on the DSG Recovery Plan prior to a significant refresh. The refresh considered both the substantial, increased demand since the SEND & AP transformation programme capital investment was originally agreed by Norfolk County Council, and the increased understanding of drivers and the expected timing and impact of changes. These amendments have been presented and discussed at Schools Forum at a number of points during the 2020/21 financial year, and also shared with the Department for Education, and the in-year financial monitoring has indicated that there would be significant variances to budget at the outturn.

The original budget set for 2020/21 was £0.443m higher than the actual HN Block income received (a deficit budget was set based on the earlier iteration of the DSG recovery plan referred to above), and therefore there was an income shortfall of £0.443m was budgeted to be added further to the deficit. This was an under-estimation when compared with the reviews of the Recovery Plan that have taken into account increased pressures.

When considering the variances to budgets it should be noted that the final outturn is relatively close to the forecasted position at School Forum’s January meeting when the 2021/22 budget was reviewed. The majority of the outturns were in line with previous forecasts, primarily with the exception of Independent Placements. Forecasting demand-led budgets can be challenging due to their unpredictability; additionally, the LA is continuing to work to revise and improve assumptions and, as part of this, a year-end reconciliation was undertaken that identified an adjustment was needed in the approach, resulting in the expenditure in this area having been under-forecast in January.

The greatest variance to budget is due to high cost independent placements for which the allocated budget was overspent by £8.990m. This is an ongoing pressure that the LA, with the wider system, is working hard to resolve over time. Reducing reliance on independent placements through significant investment in new special schools and special unit places is key, along with transformation of existing services as part of the SEND & AP Transformation Programme.

The Short Stay School for Norfolk budget was overspent by £0.981m, comprising £0.600m for medical needs and £0.381m for transport costs. This was not an increase in costs compared to prior years, but rather shortage of HN Block funding due to the demands.

There was spend of £0.938m for Section 19 costs in respect of pupils that the LA has a statutory duty to support whilst they are either on the waiting list for Short Stay School for Norfolk, Child Missing Education, or awaiting specialist placement. In line with the shortage of HN Block funding, there was no specific allocated budget and the costs had previously been included within Independent Placements but was separated out for improved line of sight and transparency. There is a budget in place from April 2021 and these pressures are included in the DSG recovery plan.

Additionally, there has been an increase in demand for high needs Element 3 funding for post-16 students attending Further Education colleges, contributing another £0.650m to the overspend. As a result of demand increasing as more young people are eligible for support following the previous legislation change, further increases have been forecast for future years in Norfolk’s DSG recovery plan.

The Exceptional Circumstances budget overspent by £0.880m due to additional support needed for pupils throughout Covid and on an ‘invest to save’ basis to provide support in a mainstream school to enable them to prevent escalation of need and, subsequently, specialist provision. However, this was partly offset by a reduction of -£0.435m for SEN Support/ECHP Element 3 allocations due to fewer applications.

Income from permanent exclusions was £0.394m lower than budgeted. This shortfall in expected income was due to a mixture of additional support by the LA for inclusion, particularly upon return from the first lockdown in the Autumn, combined with the pandemic meaning that there were fewer permanent exclusions happening during lockdowns. The additional support for Inclusion and AP was a conscious LA decision to invest to save. The spend totalled £0.325m and will have avoided more costly interventions, exclusions and / or specialist place funding. The 2021-22 budget reflects this approach continuing.

The Alternative Education (Alternative Provision) budget was underspent by -£0.318m and this was due to a combination of the closure of Horatio House in August for which a full-year budget had been set for the financial year 2020/21, and also due to a reduction in 1:1 support for some pupils during school closures.

Invest to save costs of £0.778m were incurred from September for the Specialist Learning Support Teachers (£0.673m) and SEMH Practitioners (£0.105m) who are critical to improving outcomes and reducing pressure on the DSG through pro-actively supporting schools to increase inclusion and reduce escalation of need and, thus, additional specialist places to meet need. The 2021-22 budget reflects this approach continuing.

The allocated budgets for maintained and academy special schools and SRB’s were both underspent (by -£1.132m in total) due to the budget reflecting an earlier iteration of the DSG Recovery Plan and early estimates of opening dates for a higher number of new school and SRB places.

**Table 3: High Needs Block**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | Approved Budget £m | Outturn £m | Over +/Underspend (-)£m | Over+/Underspend (-) as a % of budget | *Variance(Previous Forecast to Outturn)£m* |
| **High Needs Block** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Special Schools | 37.381 | 36.373 | -1.008 | -3% | *-0.065* |
| Independent Placements | 24.061 | 33.050 | 8.990 | 37% | *1.418* |
| FE and 6th form Element 3 funding | 6.440 | 7.090 | 0.650 | 10% | *0.006* |
| Mainstream Schools’ Element 3 funding | 8.250 | 7.815 | -0.435 | -5% | *0.035* |
| Exceptional Circumstances | 1.000 | 1.880 | 0.880 | 88% | *-0.005* |
| Short Stay School | 6.129 | 7.110 | 0.981 | 16% | *0.000* |
| Alternative Education | 4.516 | 4.198 | -0.318 | -7% | *0.021* |
| Specialist Resource Bases | 3.838 | 3.714 | -0.124 | -3% | *-0.060* |
| Section 19 Costs | 0.000 | 0.938 | 0.938 | n/a | *-0.005* |
| Inter Authority Recoupment | 0.734 | 0.837 | 0.103 | 14% | *0.009* |
| Inclusion and AP Support | 0.000 | 0.325 | 0.325 | n/a | *-0.001* |
| Personal Budgets | 0.451 | 0.246 | -0.205 | -45% | *-0.181* |
| Contribution to Youth Offending Team | 0.290 | 0.290 | 0.000 | 0% | *0.000* |
| Contribution to CAHMS | 0.251 | 0.251 | 0.000 | 0% | *0.000* |
| Speech and Language Therapy | 1.004 | 1.004 | 0.000 | 0% | *-0.237* |
| Permanent Exclusions income | -0.900 | -0.506 | 0.394 | -44% | *0.045* |
| SEN invest to save | 0.307 | 0.203 | -0.105 | -34% | *-0.115* |
| Learning Support Services\* | 2.418 | 3.196 | 0.778 | 32% | *0.000* |
| PATHS Programme | 0.100 | 0.103 | 0.003 | 3% | *0.004* |
| Moving and Handling | 0.020 | 0.055 | 0.035 | 175% | *0.035* |
| Specialist Equipment | 0.000 | 0.138 | 0.138 | n/a | *0.054* |
| **Total Budget vs Expenditure** | **96.289\*\*** | **108.308** | **12.019** | 12% | ***0.958*** |
| **DSG Shortfall (for Deficit Budget set from Reserves)** |  |  | **0.443** |  | ***0.000*** |
| **High Needs Block Outturn** |  |  | **12.462** | **13%** | ***0.958*** |

\* Learning Support Services also includes Sensory Support, Access Through Technology, Critical Incident and Medical Needs Co-ordination

\*\*Actual HN Block DSG income £93.311m plus 0.5% transfer from Schools Block of £2.535m = £95.846m, but a deficit budget was set at £96.289m. The difference was a shortfall of £0.443m on income and therefore increased outturn by that amount.

**Early Years Block**

There was an underspend of -£0.217m within the Early Years Block which is to be transferred to the Dedicated Schools Grant reserve where it will partially offset the in-year overall DSG deficit. This outturn includes a creditor of £1.100m in respect of an estimated adjustment to the 2020/21 DSG in November 2021, and a creditor of £0.500m to support Covid sufficiency claims not yet paid.

**Table 4: Early Years Block**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | Approved Budget £m | Outturn £m | Over +/underspend (-)£m | Over +/Underspend (-) as a % of the budget |
| **Early Years Block** |  |  |  |  |
| 2-Year-Old Place Funding | 4.480 | 4.724 | 0.244 | 5% |
| 3 and 4-year-Old funding | 32.334 | 30.092 | -2.242 | -7% |
| Maintained Nursery Classes | 2.914 | 2.870 | -0.044 | -2% |
| SEN Inclusion Fund | 0.800 | 0.560 | -0.240 | -30% |
| SEN Complex Need | 0.185 | 0.251 | 0.066 | 36% |
| Disability Access Fund | 0.174 | 0.174 | 0.000 | 0% |
| Early years pupil premium | 0.503 | 0.488 | 0.015 | 3% |
| Early Years Funded Services | 1.854 | 1.854 | 0.000 | 0% |
| Early Year Contingency (Covid) | 0.000 | 0.876 | 0.876 | n/a |
| Adjustment to 2019/20 EY | 0.000 | 0.038 | 0.038 | n/a |
| Expected 2020/21 Adjustment | 0.000 | 1.100 | 1.100 | n/a |
| Unclaimed 2020/21 funding earmarked for COVID-19\* | 0.000 | 0.500 | 0.500 | n/a |
| **Total Early Years Block** | **43.244** | **43.027** | **-0.217** | **-1%** |

\* Covid sufficiency claims not yet paid for 2020-21

The funding for Early Years Block is allocated by the Education Skills and Funding Agency using January 2020 census count (to cover April 2020 to December 2020) and the January 2021 census count (to cover January 2021 to March 2021). In addition to this, eligible LA’s may also receive top-up funding for the spring term in their early years DSG funding allocation for the 2020 to 2021 financial year due to the pandemic.  It is not expected that NCC will be eligible, because the January 2021 census, was not lower than 85% of the January 2020 census in childcare attendance hours.

Due to the availability of top-up funding for some LA’s, there will be a requirement for all LA’s to submit a summer term attendance count.  This means that the DSG adjustment which usually takes place in July will be delayed until November 2021.  It is anticipated that the adjustment will claw back Early Years Block DSG of £1.100m from the local authority based upon the information available when the Council’s accounts were closed, and a creditor was input into the year-end accounts for this.

During early 2020-21 the DfE gave LA’s permission to use the DSG EY Block differently to support providers to ensure sufficiency and sustainability as a result of the pandemic.  Norfolk County Council’s Responsible Cabinet Member (through a published decision) agreed to allow providers to apply for financial support and sustainability funding to ensure that they remained in business where they were viable and there was a sufficiency need.  Due to the urgency of action being required, this approach was discussed with the Chair of Schools Forum in advance, and later communicated to Schools Forum subsequently. The decision is available for reference on [Norfolk County Council’s website](https://norfolkcc.cmis.uk.com/norfolkcc/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=%2fkAuOx6vyu1zNYFHtK55mYpXoxKYSi59xq6beBI9Ye1bFcyXXVEgJA%3d%3d&rUzwRPf%2bZ3zd4E7Ikn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNlh225F5QMaQWCtPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9IXnlg%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAJvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&FgPlIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5olA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCpMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJFf55vVA%3d).

The DfE expects LA’s to return to the normal funding approach from 1April 2021, and we anticipate that this will be when providers are able to ascertain the full financial impact of the pandemic for 2020-21, particular as central government financial support ends and the repayment of loans commence.  Prior to year-end, the LA received a number of applications for support as the full impact of the year became clear for providers. For this reason, £0.500m has been allowed to support Covid sufficiency claims not yet paid.

The take up of the early education in the 2020-21 financial year remains consistently above 90%.

Disability Access Fund has been maximised in line with the principles and aims of DAF as advised by the Education Funding Agency.

1. **Schools Balances**

The Scheme for Financing Schools in Norfolk sets out the local framework within which delegated financial management is undertaken.

Schools accounts have been closed; however, balances are in the process of being reconciled. This paragraph sets out in summary terms the position of Norfolk schools balances at 31 March 2021 and compares them with balances at 31 March 2020.

It should be noted that the balances shown in this paper are still draft as there needs to be a final reconciliation to the schools’ submission of balances to be held under the scheme for financing schools. Appendix 2 provides details of the Balance Redistribution Mechanism for information.

Table 5 compares the value of school balances at 31 March 2021 with 31 March 2020:

**Table 5: School Balances – values of balances £000’s**



The surplus balances in the grey columns are no longer part of the overall balances but were included as at 31st March 2020. Therefore, the surplus balance figure as at 31st March 2021 has moved for LA maintained schools by £4.866m as follows:

Surplus Balances as at 31st March 2020 **£13.022m**

Academies no longer within balances at 31st March 2021 - £0.601m

Closed/Federated/amalgamated no longer in balances - £0.126m

Balance as at 31st March 2020 for comparison **£12.295m**

Surplus Balances as at 31st March 2021 £17.161m

**Change between years £4.866m**

Table 6 shows the average level of positive and negative balances held by Norfolk schools analysed by school type as at 31 March 2021**:**

**Table 6: Average balance per sector £000’s**



Table 7 shows the average value of balances by each type of school (the percentage of balances compared with the overall budget):

**Table 7: Comparison of level of balance to budget share**



Table 8 compares the number of schools with surplus and deficit balances at 31 March 2021 with 31 March 2020:

**Table 8: School Balances – number of schools**



There were 8 more LA maintained schools with surplus balances as at 31st March 2021 compared to 31st March 2020 (exluding academy converters, closed schools etc.), and 8 fewer schools with deficit balances.

1. **Financial Implications**

Overall, the Dedicated Schools Grant was overspent by £12.093m in the 2020/21 financial year.

The combined, cumulative year-on-year overspend on the Dedicated Schools Grant is now £31.797m.

**Officer Contact**

If you have any questions about matters contained or want to see copies of any assessments, e.g. equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

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|  | If you need this report in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact 0344 800 8020 or 0344 800 8011 (textphone) and we will do our best to help. |

**Appendix 1**

**SCHOOLS FORUM**

**BUDGET STATEMENT 2020/21**

**Budget £69,690**

**Expenditure £**

Employee Related Expenses 20,213

Hire of Premises 0

Travel Expenses 0

Equipment Purchases (Microphone) 0

Internal Room Hire 0

**Total Net Expenditure 20,213**

**Underspend (49,477)**

**Appendix 2: Balance Redistribution Mechanism**

The Scheme for Financing Schools in Norfolk sets out the local framework within which delegated financial management is undertaken.

The legitimate purposes that balances may be held for are: -

• To provide the school with contingency funding, the amount not exceeding 8% of the final budget share or £20,000 whichever is the greater.

• Surpluses derived from sources other than the budget share e.g. contributions from parents for school trips where expenditure will not be incurred until the following year or surpluses arising from providing community facilities.

• In exceptional circumstances with authorisation of the Finance Business Partner (Children’s Services), where an individual allocation amounting to more than 1% of the final budget share and was allocated after the 1st February.

• Voluntary Aided schools are allowed to hold revenue monies to fund governors’ liabilities towards DfE grant aided capital works. Evidence of the cost and timing of the project will be required to support this.

• Surpluses derived from Pupil Premium funding - this would mean that, for the purposes of calculating the contingency sum of 8% of the final budget share, the Pupil Premium would be excluded, but would be shown as a separate category in its own right.

• The amount of Pupil Premium allowed to be carried forward should not exceed the sum received in that financial year.

• The Analysis of Surplus Revenue Balances form would be pre-populated, after the year-end closure of accounts, with the maximum sum allowed under this category for each school.

• A school by school justification for an additional exception, subject to the submission of justification data by the 28 February and approval of the exception by the Head of Finance, Leadership and Governance.

• Any balances falling outside these categories will be returned to the Authority for redistribution to schools. The actual balances each school has at the end of 2020/21 and subsequent financial years will be analysed and any surplus over and above monies falling into one of the legitimate categories above will be redistributed in the following financial year.

• Schools not in the maintenance contract (Full Membership) of the Building Maintenance Partnership scheme (BMP5) may lodge monies with the Local Authority up to a maximum of £250,000 or £450 per pupil whichever is the lower (i.e. schools purchasing the BMP Compliance Only membership may lodge monies with the Local Authority for maintenance). This money will be released at any time on production of an appropriate invoice for maintenance or building work that would have been covered by the BMP5 scheme. Interest will be payable on monies lodged in this way. Funds lodged must be transferred before the financial year-end, or they will be deemed to be part of the school’s surplus balance for the purposes of the analysis of balances mechanism.

**Schools Forum**

**Item No.3b**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Report title:** | **DSG Deficit Recovery Plan Update** |
| **Date of meeting:** | **14 May 2021** |

 **Executive summary**

|  |
| --- |
| This report provides an update to the LA’s DSG Recovery Plan. The longer-term impact of the 2020-21 outturn of the High Needs Block has been taken into account, resulting in an increase to the overall cumulative deficit currently projected by 2024/25 from £59.503m to £66.112m. The update has not revised any of the base assumptions regarding the impact of strategies and investment to reduce escalation of need, improve outcomes for children and young people and, therefore, reduce the longer-term demand upon the High Needs Block. Neither does it take into account any impact from the recent consultation on adjusting the base historical data used by the DfE to calculate Norfolk’s HNB value (which is anticipated to be an increase in grant for Norfolk) or any potential impact of the national SEND review. Future updates will take these elements into account as and when appropriate.**For information only. Comments from Forum are welcome and will be recorded.** |

**DSG Deficit Recovery Plan**

**Previous DSG Deficit Recovery Plan**

The previous DSG deficit recovery plan shared with Schools Forum in January 2021, and upon which the 2021-22 budget is predicated, was based on period 8 (end of November) monitoring and a significant review of the core assumptions the model was based upon. This projected a DSG deficit of £59.503m[[2]](#footnote-2) by the end of the 2024/25 financial year. Further details are available in the previous January 2021 Forum papers (agenda and minutes).

Link to Schools Forum papers on website: [Forum agendas and papers](https://www.schools.norfolk.gov.uk/school-finance/norfolk-schools-forum/forum-agendas-and-papers)

**Latest DSG Deficit Recovery Forecast**

The DSG Deficit Recovery Forecast has been updated based upon the 2020/21 financial year DSG outturn and projected longer-term impact. Changes in the outturn figures affect future years’ forecast figures and budget pressures continue to be reviewed as new and improved information becomes available. The latest forecast DSG deficit recovery forecast is shown in the table overleaf.

The modelling continues to be improved and refined on an iterative basis. Some of the updates are revisions or improvements to previous figures where more accurate information is now known. In particular, the year-end reconciliation for independent placements identified an adjustment was needed in approach that has had the impact of increasing the forecast deficit in all future years.

The 2020/21 financial year DSG outturn was £12.093m overspend, an increase of £0.833m compared to the forecast position previously presented to Schools Forum. The variance analysis for this increase are listed in Appendix 1 and more details of the 2020-21 outturn position are provided in the ‘DSG Final Outturn and Balances 2020-21’ paper also on this meeting’s agenda.

As a result of the increased outturn, the actual cumulative DSG deficit held on reserves as at 31st March 2021 increased from the previous forecast of £30.963m to £31.797m.

Based upon the latest information available, and updated modelling, the forecast in-year deficit for 2021/22 has now increased from £8.635m to £10.107m (£1.472m increase), and the cumulative DSG deficit forecast for the end of financial year 2024/25 has now increased from £59.503m to £66.112m.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DSG Recovery Plan, £m** | **Outturn** | **Outturn** | **Outturn** |  |  |  |  |
| **2018/19** | **2019/20** | **2020/21** | **2021/22** | **2022/23** | **2023/24** | **2024/25** |
| High Needs Block DSG Income | 80.462 | 81.917 | 93.311 | 103.926 | 112.788 | 114.411 | 115.820 |
| 0.5% Schools Block Transfer | 2.365 | 2.410 | 2.535 | 2.621 | 2.647 | 2.674 | 2.701 |
| Additional Schools Block to High Needs Block Transfer | 0.000 | 4.580 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 5.295 | 5.348 | 5.401 |
| Schools Block/ Early Years Block/Central Schools Services Block Underspends | 4.095 | 1.491 | 0.369 |   |   |   |   |
| **Total Resources** | **86.922** | **90.398** | **96.215** | **106.548** | **120.730** | **122.433** | **123.922** |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Placement Budget starting point |   |   | 87.103 | 93.441 | 99.052 | 106.282 | 112.349 |
| Demographic Growth |   |   | 7.711 | 8.056 | 11.269 | 9.319 | 6.092 |
| Savings |   |   | -1.373 | -2.446 | -4.039 | -3.251 | -1.783 |
| **Total Placements** | **80.488** | **87.103** | **93.441** | **99.052** | **106.282** | **112.349** | **116.658** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Early Intervention SEN Funding[[3]](#footnote-3) | 6.075 | 8.762 | 10.021 | 10.300 | 11.050 | 11.800 | 11.800 |
| New Special School Start-up Costs |   |   | 0.113 | 0.489 | 0.397 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Speech and Language Therapy Service contribution | 0.771 | 1.002 | 1.004 | 1.100 | 1.004 | 1.004 | 1.004 |
| Sensory Support | 1.624 | 1.623 | 1.623 | 1.623 | 1.623 | 1.623 | 1.623 |
| Youth Offending Team contribution | 0.290 | 0.290 | 0.290 | 0.290 | 0.290 | 0.290 | 0.290 |
| Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service contribution | 0.251 | 0.251 | 0.251 | 0.251 | 0.251 | 0.251 | 0.251 |
| High Needs Inclusion Infrastructure | 0.774 | 0.795 | 1.573 | 1.967 | 1.967 | 1.967 | 1.967 |
| Permanent Exclusion charges | -0.999 | -1.082 | -0.506 | -0.900 | -0.900 | -0.900 | -0.900 |
| Other | 0.447 | 0.469 | 0.498 | 0.597 | 0.597 | 0.597 | 0.597 |
| Teachers' Pay Grant and Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant |   |   |   | 1.886 | 2.029 | 2.164 | 2.268 |
| **Total Expenditure** | **89.722** | **99.214** | **108.308** | **116.655** | **124.590** | **131.145** | **135.558** |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| **Surplus (+)/Deficit (-)** | **-2.800** | **-8.816** | **-12.093** | **-10.107** | **-3.860** | **-8.712** | **-11.636** |
|  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| **Cumulative Deficit** | **-10.887** | **-19.703** | **-31.797** | **-41.904** | **-45.764** | **-54.476** | **-66.112** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Placements Costs by type, £m:** | **2018/19** | **2019/20** | **2020/21** | **2021/22** | **2022/23** | **2023/24** | **2024/25** |
| Maintained / Academy / Free Special Schools | *31.587* | *34.260* | *36.260* | *38.052* | *42.195* | *45.294* | *47.054* |
| Independent Special Schools | *25.604* | *30.456* | *33.050* | *35.039* | *37.027* | *39.015* | *41.004* |
| Section 19 Placements and Support[[4]](#footnote-4) |  | *0.060* | *0.938* | *1.110* | *1.110* | *1.110* | *1.110* |
| Alternative Provision | *6.455* | *4.693* | *4.198* | *2.261* | *2.261* | *2.261* | *2.261* |
| Post-16 (Further Education) | *6.440* | *6.774* | *7.090* | *7.175* | *7.154* | *7.552* | *7.987* |
| Specialist Resource Bases & Deaf Resource Bases | *3.089* | *3.242* | *3.714* | *5.013* | *6.133* | *6.716* | *6.841* |
| Personal Budgets | *0.451* | *0.501* | *0.246* | *0.501* | *0.501* | *0.501* | *0.501* |
| Short Stay Schools | *6.129* | *6.821* | *7.110* | *9.071* | *9.071* | *9.071* | *9.071* |
| Other Local Authority Recoupment | *0.734* | *0.298* | *0.837* | *0.830* | *0.830* | *0.830* | *0.830* |
| **Total Placement Costs** | **80.488** | **87.103** | **93.441** | **99.052** | **106.282** | **112.349** | **116.658** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Placements Numbers by type:** | **2018/19** | **2019/20** | **2020/21** | **2021/22** | **2022/23** | **2023/24** | **2024/25** |
|  Maintained / Academy / Free Special Schools | *1,484* | *1,539* | *1,630* | *1,799* | *1,954* | *2,061* | *2,132* |
| Independent Special Schools | *615* | *847* | *922* | *972* | *1,022* | *1,072* | *1,122* |
| Section 19 Placements and Support[[5]](#footnote-5) |  | *83* | *33* | *120* | *120* | *120* | *120* |
| Alternative Provision | *351* | *252* | *175* | *115* | *115* | *115* | *115* |
| Post-16 (Further Education) | *588* | *677* | *632* | *659* | *689* | *722* | *757* |
| Specialist Resource Bases & Deaf Resource Bases | *242* | *242* | *270* | *358* | *432* | *458* | *458* |
| Personal Budgets | *55* | *65* | *52* | *52* | *52* | *52* | *52* |
| Short Stay Schools | *350* | *370* | *370* | *432* | *432* | *432* | *432* |
| Other Local Authority Recoupment | *74* | *83* | *94* | *94* | *94* | *94* | *94* |
| **Total Placement Numbers** | **3,759** | **4,158** | **4,178** | **4,601** | **4,910** | **5,126** | **5,282** |

**Future DSG Deficit Recovery Updates**

As detailed above, this update has primarily based upon the 2020/21 outturn and the impact upon future years’ forecasts.

Despite the pandemic, significant work by the LA, Schools Forum and the wider system has been taking place to put in place strategies, supported by investment, to reduce escalation of need and to support children and young people to remain in mainstream schools where this is appropriate to do so. This is in addition to the capital investment that has been made by the LA to increase the number of specialist places both in resource bases and schools.

The recovery plan is an iterative document and the LA is expected to share it with Schools Forum at least termly. As the above work develops and the impact can start to be seen, future updates of the plan will reflect the anticipated longer-term impact. Whilst at present the plan has not been updated for these elements, the LA are strongly of the view that they should have the effect of reducing the pressures and, therefore, the cumulative deficit by the end of 2024/25.

Significant assumptions included in the plan can be difficult to ascertain not just because of the demand-led nature of the spend, but also due to the differing expectations and interests of the various parties involved. Not all parties will agree with the assumptions included in the forward plan as a result.

E.g., the DfE expect the LA to return the DSG budget to a break-even position as soon as possible and advise that the use of block transfers should be considered as part of the plan. However, LAs are not able to fully control the admissions to specialist provision available where there is a shortage due to the Tribunal process, which can lead to unexpected costs and independent placements in provision that may not deliver the best outcomes, but increase costs to the HNB. The LA is also expected to prioritise paying for specialist placement costs from the HNB but need to invest in alternative support and interventions to ‘turn the tide’ on needs escalation. On the other hand, schools want to maximise the funding direct to their schools to enable them to support earlier intervention and to prevent escalation of need, which a block transfer counteracts. Finally, the LA need to produce a plan over a number of years, when schools and Schools Forum are consulted on an annual basis.

Recently, there has been a consultation by the DfE on adjusting the base historical data used by the DfE to calculate Norfolk’s HNB grant value. The approach that was consulted upon is anticipated to be an increase in grant for Norfolk due to historic under-funding identified by the revised approach. This consultation was discussed at the March 2021 Schools Forum meeting. However, the outcome of the consultation is being awaited prior to adjusting the expected grant income levels in future years. It should be noted that the consultation indicated that the proposed approach would only partially recognise historic under-funding for Norfolk due to a capping system; this suggests that Norfolk’s cumulative deficit should not be as high as it is currently if the under-funding was fully corrected on a back-dated basis. Additionally, going forward, the capping will mean that the pressure remains and will continue to add to Norfolk’s in-year deficits and will mean that it is more challenging to achieve a break-even position.

Finally, there has been no adjustments made for any potential impact of the national SEND review.

Future updates will take all of these elements into account as and when appropriate.

**Benchmarking and Future Demand Modelling**

Historically, Norfolk has always undertaken benchmarking and has used the outcome of this information to help inform future decisions. Where relevant, the outcome of benchmarking has been shared with the Forum. This is something that the LA will continue to do.

As part of our annual refresh of SEND sufficiency strategies, and the ongoing SEND & AP Transformation programme of work, we have engaged the services of a third party data/forecasting company to enhance our modelling of SEND pupil data and need. MastondonC have been working with a range of LA’s across the country and we have started working with them from the start of the summer term 2021.

The commitment, for an annual licence initially (£24,000), within our ‘invest to save’ programme of work, provides the following:

* Access to forecasting algorithm tailored to local authority SEND pupil/placement data
* Initial baseline using national and local data (SEN2 + finance + placements, etc) to support forecasting analysis
* 4 x ‘scenario planning’ to provide bespoke forecasts (eg to model the impact of the opening of new specialist provision as special schools and SRB’s open and move to full capacity)
* To validate or challenge our current SEND & AP sufficiency strategies, providing independent evidence to support current plans and/or future business cases for further provision

We expect to be able to report back on initial findings towards end of summer term and from the first of four scenarios during autumn term.

**Officer Contact**

If you have any questions about matters contained or want to see copies of any assessments, e.g. equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

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**Appendix 1: High Level Variances, period 8 vs final DSG outturn**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DSG Recovery Budget Line** | **£m\*** | **Comments** |
|  |  |  |
| **High Needs Block** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Placements:** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Maintained/Academy/Free Special Schools | (0.065) | Several minor adjustments, including starters and leavers. |
| Independent Special Schools | 1.417 | Forecasting adjustment for placements, £1.758m, partially offset by adjustments for starters/leavers and fee increases. |
| Section 19 Placements and Support | (0.005) | Salary costs reduced due to later start dates within team, but the saving was mostly offset by increased cost per-pupil.  |
| Alternative Provision | 0.021 | Extra support to Compass, offset by reduction in 1:1 support due school closures/Covid. |
| Post-16 (Further Education) | 0.006 |  |
| Specialist Resources Bases & Deaf Resource Bases | (0.060) | SRB placement income reduced due to Covid. |
| Personal Budgets | (0.180) | Final costs lower than expected, possibly Covid-related, will be kept under review. |
| Other Local Authority Recoupment | 0.009 |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Early Intervention SEN Funding:** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Exceptional Circumstances Fund | (0.005) |  |
| Mainstream SEN Support/Element 3 | 0.035 | Additional Spring applications compared to previous forecast, although underspent overall due to some services not being available during pandemic. |
| Inclusion and AP Support | (0.001) |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Speech and Language Therapy Service Contribution** | (0.237) | -£0.102m for contract extension costs not required.-£0.135m for SALT Primary Pilot did not go ahead in 2020/21 to go Covid (but is still planned). |
|  |  |  |
| **Permanent Exclusion Charges** | 0.045 | Reduced PEX’s – Covid/Inclusion |
|  |  |  |
| **Other (HN Block):** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Moving and Handling | 0.035 | Contract costs confirmed at year end. |
| SEN Invest to Save | (0.114) | Review of DSG and non-DSG expenditure and unused contingencies. |
| PATHS | 0.004 | Additional spend for Reintroduction Hub access and portal licence. |
| School DDA Equipment | 0.054 | Additional specialist equipment |
|  |  |  |
| **High Needs Block Total** | **0.958** |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Early Years Block** | **(0.217)** | Reduced parental take-up due to Covid. |
|  |  |  |
| **Schools Block** | **0.092** | Mostly attributed to increase in prior year rates costs. |
|  |  |  |
| **Central Schools Services Block** | **0.001** |  |
|  |  |  |
| **TOTAL (£m)** | **0.833** |  |
|  |  |  |
| \*All figures are shown to 3.d.p. |  |  |

**Schools Forum**

**Item No.4**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Report title:** | **Norfolk Audit Services – School Traded Audits and Thematic Audits**  |
| **Date of meeting:** | **14 May 2021** |

 **Executive summary**

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| --- |
| **For information only.****This report is to update the School’s Forum on the traded school audits and thematic audits that have been carried out by Norfolk Audit Services during 2020/21.** |

Norfolk Audit Services (NAS), as the County Council’s internal auditors, carry out an annual programme of themed audits, visiting a representative sample of schools and sharing common findings and examples of good practice with all schools via Management Information (MI) Sheets.

The Local Authority strongly recommends that the outcomes of these audits are considered by School governors and leadership teams and any necessary actions taken, in order to address any improvements required for each School. Any issues and proposed actions should be discussed by the relevant Committee of the Governing Body for approval, monitoring and evaluation. Question 20 of the SFVS also makes reference to schools taking into account recommendations made from these types of audits.

During 2020/21, we were unable to complete any thematic audits or traded school audits due to covid-19 and in-person visits not being permitted.

A remote audit programme for traded school audits has been set up which is completed via TEAMs, sharing screens and scanning and emailing documents, and ten schools are scheduled to have their audit before the summer holidays.

A thematic audit on cyber security is planned for 2021/22 which will be completed post the summer holidays and another will be completed time permitting post the Christmas holidays.

**This paper is for information only.**

1. All figures rounded to 3 decimal places [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. All figures provided are rounded to 3 decimal places [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Includes Element 3 Funding [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Section 19 placements and support were not historically identified separately [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Section 19 pupils are not placements as such, but are pupils that the LA has a statutory duty to support whilst they are either on the waiting list for Short Stay School, CME, or awaiting specialist placement [↑](#footnote-ref-5)