

1.	Meeting:	Rotherham Schools Forum
2.	Date:	7 th October 2011
3.	Title:	Dedicated Schools Grant Budget Monitoring Report as at 31 st August 2011
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People's Services

5. Summary

This report provides the forecast outturn position for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) Funding for schools for 2011/12.

The current position, including the deficit carry forward from 2010/11 is an under-spend of £806k, including an agreed carry forward of £214k to 2012/13 financial year for the continuation of Extended Schools Subsidy.

6. Recommendations

Schools Forum Members are asked to note this report.

7. Background

The total amount of grant funding available to Rotherham for the current financial year was estimated as £190.610m. Due to the creation of Aston Academy on the 1st May the amount available has been reduced by the Department for Education (DFE) to £183.946m.

	Original Allocation	Revised Allocation	Reduction
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Dedicated Schools Grant	189,313	182,649	6,664
YPLA Post 16 Special Education	989	989	0
YPLA Post 16 Threshold	383	383	0
Carry Forward from 2010/11	-74	-74	0
Total	190,610	183,946	6,664

8. Proposals and Details

The forecast outturn position has been calculated based on budget monitoring returns from budget holders. Revised budgets have been set where over and under spends have been reported. Details are shown in Appendix 1.

8.1.1 Delegated Schools Budgets

For the purposes of this report the forecast outturn position on schools the DSG is estimated to be a balanced position. However, it should be noted that schools have reported a £1.667m under spend as at the end of July, but 8 of the 119 schools have not yet provided a budget monitoring report.

8.1.2 School Rates

The current forecast outturn position on school rates is an increase of £40k on the original budgeted estimate based on information provided by the Local Taxation Team to £2,300k. The budget has been increased accordingly.

8.1.3 Rotherham School Improvement Partnership

It is expected that there will be a carry forward of funds in to the financial year 2012/13, the value of this is to be confirmed by the Strategic Governance Group. For the purposes of this report it is assumed that there will be no carry forward.

8.1.4 Behaviour Support

The budget has been reduced by £129k from £701k as a result of the following virements:

	£k
To the Broom Centre	-50
To the Bridge	-50
To the Alternative Resource Centre	-45
To the Rowan	-10
Adjustment to cover staffing overspend	+26
Total	-129

8.1.5 Children and Families Special Needs Service

The budget has been increased by £94k to £224k due to the following virements:

	£k
NHS funded posts (allocated from Formerly Centrally Held Specific Grants)	+91
Rotherham Mind (allocated from Contingency)	+35
Staffing Under Spend	-32
Total	+94

8.1.6 Children in Public Care (Get Real Team)

The budget has been increased by £8k due to this amount being carried forward from 2010/11 financial year

8.1.7 Ethnic Minority Achievement

The budget has been increased by £47k which was transferred from the Former Specific Grant Allocation.

8.1.8 Hearing Impaired Service

Due to the DSG budget allocation being kept at 2010/11 levels, this left a shortfall due to a change in the guidance issued by DFE on SEN pupils. In 2010/11 the Service was able to recover funds from Academies, this is no longer allowable. The budget has been increased by £28k to cover this shortfall.

8.1.9 Pupil Referral Units

The budget has been increase by a £463k as a result of the following virements:

	£k
From Behaviour Support:	
To the Broom Centre	+50
To the Bridge	+50
To the Alternative Resource Centre	+45
To Rowan	+10
From the Former Specific Grant Allocation	+368
Transport Costs Overspends: The Bridge, Riverside & Rowan	+20
Over/Under-spends carried forward from 2010/11:	
The Bridge	-100
Riverside	-10
St Marys	+30
Total	+463

8.2.0 Schools Contingency

The budget has been reduced by a total of £139k as a result of a reduction of an adjustment for the increase in rates, adjustment for the Children in Public Care (Get Real Team) and Pupil Referral Unit Carry forwards. £23k due to the requirement to pay for Low Incidence SEN pupil funding for the Academies,

8.2.1 SEN Extra District Placements

This needs led budget has been increased by £5k.

8.2.2 SEN Placements

This needs led budget has been reduced by £147k used offset other budget increases.

8.2.3 Formerly Centrally Retained Specific Grants

As agreed at the Schools Forum meeting of the 24th June budget virements totalling £856k have been actioned. A further £2,992k has been transferred to individual schools budgets. It should also be noted that £287k has been earmarked for the purpose of supporting Roma/Slovak pupils, but as yet, this budget has not yet been allocated to a specific Service or to Schools.

8.2.4 Visual Impaired Service

As per the Hearing Impaired Service, the Visual Impaired Service can no longer recover income from Academies. The budget has been increased by £42k to cover this shortfall.

8.2.5 Other Budget Adjustments

The following service budgets have been increased due to an overspend on staffing costs. The reason for this, is the DSG budgets set for 2011/12 were set at the same level as those set in 2010/11 without reference to the outturn position i.e. the overspend position in 2010/11 has continued in 2011/12.

	£k
Early Years ASD Support	+3
Early Intervention Team	+3
Operational Safeguarding Unit	+3
School Effectiveness Service	+39
Risky Business (Young People's Service)	+4
SEN Assessment Team	+3
Portage	+8
Autism Communication Team	+8

9 Finance

The financial issues are discussed in section 8 above and included in Appendix A.

10 Risks and Uncertainties

Principal risks and uncertainties relate to the 'needs led' nature of budgets in relation to Special Educational Needs pupils,

The reductions in other grant funding in 2010/11 and 2011/12 has placed significant pressure on the centrally managed services for schools. Needs-led budgets are currently being used to offset overspends in these areas. There is a risk that demands on these budgets may increase and result in an overspend position on the overall DSG budget.

11 Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

It is the intention of the Department for Education to give schools more autonomy and responsibility for spending decisions. Rotherham has recently formed the Rotherham School Improvement Partnership which is a move towards transferring the responsibility for School Improvement interventions to schools. A Strategic Governance Group is developing plans which set out the future arrangements for Rotherham Schools, including details of the deployment of Resources to support this.

12 Background Papers and Consultation

- Report to Schools Forum on the 24th June 2011.

This report has been discussed with the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Service and the Strategic Director of Finance.

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