

1.	Meeting:	Rotherham Schools Forum
2.	Date:	6 th March 2015
3.	Title:	Total Schools Budget Monitoring Report as at 31st January 2015
4.	Directorate:	Resources – Financial Services Children and Young People’s Services

5. Summary

This report confirms the Total Schools budgeted allocation for 2014/15 and projected outturn against this budget based on expenditure up to the 31st January 2015.

The Total Schools budget available after confirmation of the Dedicated Schools Grant allocation, the EFA post 16 SEN funding for 2014/15 and the DSG Carry-forward from 2013/14 is £145.087m (after deductions for Academy recoupment).

The current projected outturn against the above budget based on expenditure up to the 31st January 2015 is an over spend of £476k (0.33% over budget), including the agreed carry-forward allocations from 2013/14 to 2014/15 financial year.

6. Recommendations

That the Schools Forum receives and notes confirmation of the revised Total Schools Budget allocation for 2014/15.

That the Schools Forum notes the current projected outturn position for the year 2014/15.

7. Revision to Total Schools Budget 2014/15

The total amount of grant funding available to Rotherham is now £145.087m which is a total reduction of £16.975m from the original Total Schools Budget set at the start of the financial year. Since the revised budget was reported to Forum in January there has been a further reduction to the Total Schools Budget of £677k.

This is due to a further reduction of DSG in the Schools Block as a result of additional recouplement following the academy conversion of Aston All Saints and Maltby Manor Primary Schools.

8. Total Schools Budget Projected Outturn 2014/15

The forecast outturn position is projected to be a £476k over spend based on the budget monitoring returns from budget holders for the period ending 31st January 2015. Details are shown in Appendix 1.

8.1.1 Budget Virements

Details of the budget virements during the period from December 2014 to January 2015 for each funding block are outlined below:-

Schools Block Virements

School Effectiveness Service

Transfer of funding for Schools of Concern to Ferham £3k, Sitwell £800 and Milton School £400. Allocation of EYFS Profile Moderator funding £600 each to Sitwell, Broom, Thornhill, Thurcroft, Anston Hillcrest and Swinton and £200 to Herringthorpe School.

RoSIP

Funding of £445k devolved to maintained Schools from the Rotherham School Improvement Partnership Budget. (Further payments of £320k made to Academy Schools)

High Needs Block Virements

Special Educational Needs (Top up Funding)

Budget virements for element 3 top up funding for exceptional needs to Special School budgets £11k, Primary Schools £1k and Secondary Schools £1k for the month of December 2014.

Transfer of £25k for Flanderwell Resource Unit from Primary Delegated Budget following conversion to Academy status in January.

Learning Support Service and Autism Communication Team

Transfer of budget £7.5k for Business Support Officer post transferred from the Children and Families Disability Team for the period November 2014 to March 2015.

Early Years Block Virements

Primary Delegated Budget

Additional Early years funding allocated to Flanderwell £11k and Trinity Croft £9k in respect of maintained early years funding prior to Academy conversion. Reduction of £12k Early Years funding from maintained school budgets for Academy payments following latest conversions.

8.1.2 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 £2.318m under spend based on monitoring returns received by the 13th February, (based on returns from 72% of Schools).

8.1.3 The main variances against Revised Budget allocations are as follows:

Schools Block (£759k under spend)

Rates

Forecast under spend of £748k against revised rates budgets. Main variance due to secondary schools converting to Academy status and 2 schools granted Corporate Trust status £556k. Carry forward of Schools Block under spend from 2013/14 £414k not utilised in year. Offset by an over spend of £222k on primary school rates due to re-valuation of new build school premises backdated 3 years.

Behaviour Support Service (EOTAS)

Under spend of £22k due to staff slippage of £14k (staff restructure and not filling vacant posts), under spend on premises costs £4k and supplies £5k offset by £1k over spend on transport costs.

Children in Public Care

Under spend of £26k due to staff slippage as a result of not filling a vacant post pending restructure of service.

Contingency

Over spend on Pupil Growth Fund allocations to Primary Schools of £22k. Overspend of £57k due to termination of employment and pension costs and under spend of £24k on copyright licences due to actual costs being lower than estimated.

Trade Union Activities

Under spend of £6k forecast due to additional income from Academies £9k offset by additional staffing costs of £3k for increase in staff time on Academy work.

Free School Meals Assessment

Underspend of £6k due to additional income from Academies.

High Needs Block (£1,743m over spend)

Special Educational Needs

Forecast over spend of £863k due to educational equipment £75k, support packages £13k, out of authority independent non maintained school placements £849k (42 current placements and 3 pending, based on an

average weekly cost of £929 per week the current budget can only fund 21 placements), Speech and Language Therapy £34k, Mind Contract £60k. Over spend offset by forecast under spend of £72k on exceptional needs payments to Special and mainstream schools (13 additional individual assigned resource payments to 5 Comprehensive and 64 payments to 34 Primary Schools, additional 31 payments to 6 Special Schools) offset by additional income of £96k from Schools for 30 permanently excluded pupils.

Post 16 to 24 Provision

Forecast over spend of £741k on post 16 SEN element 3 top up funding to Further Education Providers based on current placements for 221 students. (Average weekly cost of mainstream and local provision is £85 with average cost of independent specialist provision for high needs students at £664. Based on an overall average cost of £156 the current budget can only fund 155 placements).

SEN Complex Needs

Forecast over spend of £75k on out of authority placements in independent non maintained special schools for pupils with statements of SEN based on 25 current placements and 5 potential places. (Based on the average weekly cost of £1,705 the current budget can only fund 18 placements)

SEN Extra District Placements

An under spend of £98k has been projected and this is due to lower than expected top up funding for placements in other Local authority maintained schools £76k (based on 41 placements through the year) and additional income of £21k recouped from other Local authorities. (Based on the average weekly cost of £127 the current budget is sufficient to fund a total of 53 placements)

Hearing Impaired Service

Over spend of £82k due to staffing costs of £38k. Temporary staff appointed to meet the needs of an increase in the number of pupils at the resource units at Bramley and Wickersley and insufficient funding for increments and pay awards. Over spend of £6k on specialist equipment, £3k interpretation costs, £4k training costs, additional transport costs £1k, Bramley Grange Premises contribution £15k and a £15k income shortfall.

(Forecast is based on 12 places at Bramley, 12 places at Wickersley and 269 pupils receiving support from the peripatetic Team).

Visually Impaired Service

Over spend of £31k due to staffing costs of £27k due to insufficient funding for increments and pay awards, advertising £1k, specialist equipment £4k and supplies £2k offset by additional income of £3k. (Forecast is based on an active caseload of 233 pupils in the autumn of 2014-15 academic year and 26 new referrals in the first school term).

Learning Support and Autism Communication Team

Forecast under spend of £10k due to staff slippage of £32k (appointments to vacant posts), offset by £4k over spend on training costs and advertising of vacant posts, transport £1k and shortfall of income target £17k.

Portage Service

Forecast over spend of £19k due to £14k staffing costs as a result of insufficient funding for increments and pay awards and premises costs £5k.

EOTAS Transport

Forecast over spend of £8k as a result of over spend on bus passes £14k offset by under spend of £6k on taxi provision.

Home Tuition Service

Forecast over spend of £33k due to additional tutor hours based on 14 current students accessing the service and 7 referrals. (Historic budget used to fund an average of 11 students).

Early Years Block (£508k under spend)

Private, Voluntary and Independent Nursery Funding for 3 & 4 Year Olds

Forecast under spend of £62k based on anticipated take up of places. However the grant is likely to be clawed back in 2015/16 due to an anticipated reduction in places at the next census.

Early Education Funding for 2 Year Olds

Forecast under spend of £446k due to lack of take up of places in September term. 2 Year old numbers are significantly lower than expected in the original budget forecast.

9 Finance

The financial issues are discussed in section 8 above and included in Appendix 1.

10 Risks and Uncertainties

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

11 Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

12 Background Papers and Consultation

This report has been discussed with the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Service, the Interim Director of Schools and Lifelong Learning and the Strategic Director of Finance.

Contact Name: Andrea Baldwin – Principal Finance Officer (Children and Young People's Services), *Financial Services ext: 22012, email andrea.baldwin@rotherham.gov.uk*