

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO SCHOOLS FORUM

1.	Meeting:	Schools Forum
2.	Date:	24th April 2015
3.	Title:	Education Support Grant
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People's Services

5. Summary

In response to a request by the Schools Forum Finance Committee, the report gives an overview of the Education Support Grant and how the funding received has been allocated.

6. Recommendations

That Schools Forum note the report.

7. Proposals and Details

7.1.1 The Education Services Grant (ESG) is a non-ring fenced grant which can be used in support of central education functions. As it is not ring fenced there is no requirement for all of the grant allocated to the Local Authority to be spent on central education services, rather it is for Local Authorities to determine how the funding is allocated to support local priorities. The Grant replaces an equal amount of Revenue Support Grant (the general grant used to support all Council revenue funded services) and this reduces each year as more academies open. Funding not used to support central education services is used to support Children and Young People's Services Directorate budget. Further details are given in the Department for Education document 'The Education Services Grant – statement of Financial Arrangements for 2015 to 2016' (**Appendix A attached**).

7.1.2

For the financial year 2014/15 the Council received £3,831,099.

The Department for Education refer to the Section 251 Tables of Budgeted Expenditure in their document and describe areas of expenditure within Children and Young People's Services budgets as 'ESG relevant areas of expenditure'. The forecast expenditure (based on the unaudited outturn report) for the Council in these is given below:

Section 251 Heading*	Forecast Net Expenditure in 2014/15 £k
Central Support Services	1,029
Education Welfare	632
School Improvement	927
Asset Management – Education	54
Statutory Regulatory Duties - Education	381
Total	3,023

****DfE guidance on what should be included under these headings is attached at Appendix B***

The balance of the funding received is allocated to the total funding available for the Children and Young People's Directorate. As a result of this it is not possible to identify exactly where this is spent.

8. Finance

The Financial issues are covered in 7. Above.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Principal risks and uncertainties relate to the 'needs led' nature of High Needs Block and Early Years Block budgets.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

- We will focus on all children, young people and their families to improve their qualifications and skills and for them to be economically active through lifelong learning

11. Background Papers and Consultation

'The Education Services Grant – statement of Financial Arrangements for 2015 to 2016' (attached).

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