

2017/18 Dedicated Schools Grant Budget

Schools Forum

Date: 18th March 2017

Author: Head of Finance – Education

Wards: All

Locality Affected: All

Parishes Affected: All

1. Purpose and Reasons

1.1 The Schools Forum meeting on 17th January 2017 received a report on the 2017/18 Dedicated Schools Grant Settlement and Budget. This report provides members with an update on various budget issues that have arisen since that meeting. This report addresses:

1. Tuition Service Review
2. Alternative Learning Review
3. High Needs strategic review
4. Special School Support
5. Early years deprivation criteria 2017/18
6. Apprenticeship Levy
7. High Needs Top-up for PI SRP units
8. Post 16 update
9. LA response to the National Fair Funding consultation
10. Admissions
11. School Place Planning

1.2 These proposals contribute towards delivering the Council Vision Priority “Offer education opportunities that lead to the right skills and right jobs in the right places.”

2. Recommendations

The Schools Forum is recommended to:

2.1 Note the outcomes and recommendations from the tuition service review are being implemented as detailed in para 3.2 - 3.4.

2.2 Note the significance of the Alternative Provision Review, including the risk that an agreed voluntary contribution will be sought from all secondary schools in

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Summer 2017, to meet pupil's needs and reduce pressure on high needs budget from Alternative Provision as detailed in para 3.5 - 3.8.

- 2.3 Note the scope of the High Needs Strategic review as set out in Appendix B as detailed in para 3.9 - 3.10.
- 2.4 Note the LA intends to support a special school from the current High Needs contingency in para. 3.11 - 3.14
- 2.5 Approve the use of £10k of 2017/18 DSG reserves to assist St Luke's School with rebranding the school in para. 3.15
- 2.6 Note the LA method of allocating the Early Years deprivation enhancement in para. 3.16 - 3.18.
- 2.7 Note the potential impact of the apprenticeship levy on schools in Swindon as detailed in Para. 3.19 - 3.22.
- 2.8 Note the changes to the High Needs Top-up for PI SRP students as detailed in para. 3.23 - 3.26.
- 2.9 Note that work is ongoing to confirm the current location of 31 Post 16 learners that have Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) in para. 3.27 – 3.30.
- 2.10 Note the information on the Admissions Service and the overview of the Admissions budget para. 3.31.
- 2.11 Note the overview of the statutory and non-statutory role of the LA's Admissions team para. 3.32 - 3.33.
- 2.12 Note the information on the LA's School Place planning function para 3.34.
- 2.13 Note that the Department for Education's consultations on Mainstream National Fair Funding and on High Needs funding deadline is 22nd March 2017 para. 3.35.

3. Detail

Settings

- 3.1 The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is ring fenced funding provided by the Department for Education (DfE) to meet the educational needs of early years, school age and all 0 to 25 year old high need pupils, any decisions on how the grant is utilised indirectly affects all settings.

Tuition Service Review

- 3.2 The consultation to move the Swindon Tuition Service to EOTAS is underway. It is anticipated that Swindon Tuition Service will be a part of EOTAS for September 2017.

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- 3.3 As a part of this review funding will be reallocated away from Tuition to explore commissioning Alternative Provision places from external suppliers including the Oakfield Project.
- 3.4 This move is a part of an Alternative Provision Review (see Appendix A)
- Alternative Provision Review
- 3.5 There is a need to review Alternative Provision. Currently Alternative Provision is struggling to meet demands for its service. There is a need to develop inclusive SEMH practice in mainstream schools and expertise and reduce the demand for Alternative Provision.
- 3.6 AP is being reviewed. Schools are being consulted with a decision to be put forward later this year.
- 3.7 In summer 2017, Secondary Schools will be asked to agree to make an agreed voluntary contribution for September 2017 for PEX and potentially managed moves. If this agreement is not secured then SF will be asked for significant additional funds from the high needs budget in 2018-19 to ensure
- There are sufficient Alternative Provision places to meet an increasing demand
 - That all Alternative Provision is funded for 25 hours provision
- 3.8 More information can be obtained from Marie Horton 07341 077537

Members of Schools Forum are now asked to:

- **Note the outcomes and recommendations from the Tuition Service review are being implemented.**
- **Note the significance of the Alternative Provision Review, including the risk that an agreed voluntary contribution will be sought from all secondary schools in Summer 2017, to meet pupils' needs and reduce the requirement for additional pressures on the high needs budget from Alternative Provision.**

mhorton@swindon.gov.uk.

High Needs Strategic review

- 3.9 Government have allocated an additional grant to each local authority so that they can work with local schools, other providers, parents and young people, and

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Ian Burbidge on 01793 464384 or iburbidge@swindon.gov.uk

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with neighbouring authorities to review the way high needs funding is used and to consider how best to use mainstream and specialist provision across the area.

- 3.10 The overarching purpose of the review is to gather information from schools, other providers, parents and young people and neighbouring authorities to review and advise on the way high needs funding is currently used and advise Swindon Borough Council on how best to use mainstream, specialist, and alternative provision across the area. Full details of the review can be found at Appendix B.

Members of Schools Forum are now asked to:

- **Note the scope of the High Needs Strategic review as set out in Appendix B**

Special School Support

- 3.11 Members may be aware that St. Luke's special school has recently been placed under an academy order by the EFA, which means that the school needs to convert to a sponsored academy.
- 3.12 The LA has been working with the school since the outcomes of the report were announced and has established an Interim Executive Board (IEB). The IEB and the LA have changed the way that the curriculum is being delivered, and this has improved some of the issues that were identified by Ofsted.
- 3.13 A number of support measures have been implemented including some offsite teaching of a group of students, and school to school support from an Outstanding London Special School.
- 3.14 The LA is proposing to provide £42k of additional financial support to the school to assist it with the cost of implementing the changes noted above, the contribution will come from the current DSG High Needs contingency. In addition the LA is covering the cost of the additional transport to get the students to the offsite provision from its SEN transport budget. The LA is also considering using £20k of the Swindon Challenge funding to support the school over the rest of the 2016/17 academic year. The teaching school has also agreed a contribution of £10k to assist the school with the changes.
- 3.15 The school are requesting agreement from Schools Forum for £10k from the DSG reserve in 2017/18 to assist them in rebranding the school, which includes the implementation of a new website.

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Members of Schools Forum are now asked to:

- Note that the LA intends to use £42k of the current DSG High Needs contingency to support St Luke's Special school.
- Approve the use of £10k of the 2017/18 DSG reserves to assist St. Luke's Special School with rebranding the school.

Early Years deprivation criteria 2017/18

- 3.16 In 2017/18 the LA has retained 1% of the Early Education funding for 3 & 4 Year Olds to pay an enhancement to settings based on the level of deprivation in the setting, this retained fund equates to £100k.
- 3.17 Previously the deprivation enhancement was paid on a based on the IDACI index score and the funding available was apportioned according to the ranking on the index.
- 3.18 The method of allocation for the £100k Early Years deprivation enhancement for 2017/18 is to allocate it as an hourly enhancement for pupils in receipt of Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP). The level of enhancement paid per hour will be calculated at year end and will be adjusted according to the number of children accessing EYPP.

Members of Schools Forum are now asked to:

- Note that the LA intends to allocate the Early Years deprivation enhancement at the end of the year as an hourly enhancement for pupils in receipt of Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP).

Apprenticeship Levy

- 3.19 The LA has sought clarification from the Government about what elements of pay are subject to the levy, the advice received has indicated that any pay elements that are subject to class 1 NIC are also subject to the apprenticeship levy. Further it has been clarified that each employer will only have one digital account, which will be used for both levy payments and to fund approved training.
- 3.20 The following website contains more information about the scheme and how it will operate:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-levy-how-it-will-work/apprenticeship-levy-how-it-will-work>

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Maintained Schools

- 3.21 For maintained schools the LA has been liaising with internal and third party payroll providers to confirm how the arrangements for registering payments into the scheme will be administered.
- 3.22 The LA is looking to support all areas of the council to consider apprenticeships and would be happy to discuss with any of the maintained schools how they can make sure they get value by employing and training an apprentice, bringing the money back into their school that will be paid out in the levy payment. Please contact the Learning and Development team for more information at Learninganddevelopment@swindon.gov.uk or contact Helena Taylor-Knox who is the project lead.

Members of Schools Forum are now asked to:

- **Note the potential impact of the apprenticeship levy on schools in Swindon.**

High Needs Top-up for PI SRP units

- 3.23 The LA has been working with the Physical Impairment (PI) SRPs to establish the costs of supporting pupils in these provisions. The LA has reviewed the provisions and based on the findings of these reviews

Commonweal Secondary SRP

- 3.24 The LA has identified that the current top-up mechanism does not provide sufficient funding to the school to support the PI pupils in this PI SRP provision. In order to try and find a solution the LA has commissioned 5 less places at Commonweal's SPLD SRP from September 2017. This will release £50,000 of funding per annum, and £29,167 during 2017/18 from September. The LA is proposing to utilise this released funding to provide a specific Secondary PI supplement on a per pupil basis of £2,777.78 per annum, which equates to a pro-rata total of £29,167 for 18 pupils from September 2017.

Robert Le Kyng SRP

- 3.25 The LA has also identified that the current top-up mechanism does not provide sufficient funding to the school to support the PI pupils in Robert le Kyng School. Schools Forum members will be aware that in 2016/17 the DSG provided £45k of additional financial support for Robert Le Kyng School to assist this primary SRP. The LA has reviewed both of the primary PI SRP units, this review has established that whilst Robert Le Kyng SRP has been working hard to reduce their operating costs it is still facing a significant in year financial pressure for

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2017/18, however the similar unit at Westlea Primary is not experiencing the same financial issues.

- 3.26 The LA is proposing to provide a specific PI supplement of £4k per pupil for 10 pupils from April 2017, a total of £40k of additional funding to support Robert Le Kyng SRP in addressing the in year financial pressures that it is facing for 2017/18. It is important for Schools Forum members to note that this funding will not address the significant deficit that the SRP unit is carrying forward but is intended to help the school to keep this deficit at a similar level by 31/03/18.

Members of Schools Forum are now asked to:

- **Note the introduction of a Secondary PI top-up fee of £2,777.78 per annum.**
- **Note the intention to provide £40k of funding via a specific PI supplement to the Robert Le Kyng SRP**

Post 16 Update

- 3.27 At its October 2016 meeting Schools Forum members were provided with an update on the forecasts for the Post 16 budget. At that time there were 81 learners whose post 16 destination was unknown, subsequently 3 have been identified as having a confirmed placement. Of the remainder, 31 learners have an EHCP and work is continuing to identify whether they are in a post 16 setting.
- 3.28 In the Autumn term letters were sent to families, requesting information about what post 16 education their child is accessing, responses to this request have been limited. As a result a follow up letter will be sent to families during the spring term advising that their plan will be ceased unless we receive a response within 15 days.
- 3.29 There were 47 learners who transitioned from EOTAS and were entitled to top up funding. The Youth Engagement Team will be asked to provide feedback as to whether any of these pupils are known to them.
- 3.30 For budget projections, we have assumed that the only costs that will be realised for the Sept 16 to March 17 period will be for the 31 pupils with EHCPs at a cost of £95k. Further details can be obtained from Paul Davis on 01793 463875 pdavis@swindon.gov.uk

Members of Schools Forum are now asked to:

- **Note that work is ongoing to confirm the current location of 31 post 16 learners that have EHCPs.**

Further
01793 464384 or iburbidge@swindon.gov.uk

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Admissions funding

- 3.31 At its January meeting Schools Forum requested further information around the funding for the admissions service. Following that meeting work has been undertaken to establish the services that are provided by the admissions team and how this is funded.

The table below outlines the budget for the admissions service, the budget for this service is all provided by what will become the Central Services Block element of the DSG. No element of the service is funded from the former Education Services Grant or the Education Function Charge.

Overview of Admissions Budgets		
	2016/17 Budget	2017/18 Budget
Total Operating Costs	£229,800	£266,500
Income from traded services	(£34,500)	(£35,400)
Net cost of service	£195,300	£231,100

- 3.32 The table below provides an overview of the main areas of work that the Admissions team undertakes split between Statutory and Non-Statutory. The LA has an overall governance role across all admissions to ensure they are fair and compliant to the School Admissions Code, including the determination of the Coordinated Admissions Scheme each year. The Local Authority is also an admitting authority of Community Schools.
- 3.33 Admitting Authority Schools are responsible for their own Admissions unless they choose to buy into the School Admissions Traded Service including In Year Admissions, Admission Arrangements and Appeals. The Local Authority is responsible for the Coordination of Point of Entry Admissions, but there are still many aspects within this vast piece of work that own admitting authority schools would be responsible for e.g. ranking their own applications in order of their admissions criteria, checking all applications meet criteria, again unless they buy into the Traded Service, Academy School or Free Schools are their own admitting authorities. Further details regarding the Admissions Service can be obtained from Gareth Cheal on 01793 465802 GCheal@swindon.gov.uk

Statutory
Governance and Scrutiny role for all admissions and admissions issues including annual LA report to Schools Adjudicator to ensure compliance to all aspects of the School Admissions Code.

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LA is the Admitting Authority for all its Community schools – it therefore must determine the Admissions Policy for these, the PAN and catchment area and any consultations on these.
LA must consider all in year applications for its Community schools and maintain waiting lists.
Coordinated Admissions Scheme for all points of entry – the LA will coordinate all the scheme for the Point of Entry including sending all students an offer letter of 1 place. For Community Schools the LA has the duty to consider all preferences against its admissions criteria, but for own admitting authority schools they must do this themselves unless they buy into our traded service.
Compile, design and Publish the Admissions Guides
Ensure all admissions policies for schools are on LA website.
Admission Arrangements – for Community Schools
Admission / Transport Appeals – for Community Schools
Transport Policy
Non-Statutory
In Year Coordination – Academy schools can delegate their responsibilities of considering applications and offering places, maintaining waiting lists to the LA.
Hold open meetings and drop in sessions
Traded Services – this includes:
a) Aspects of coordinated admissions schemes for Academy Schools, b) Aspects of in-year admissions for Academy Schools, c) Appeals for Academy Schools, d) Admission arrangements for Academy Schools

Members of Schools Forum are now asked to:

- **Note the information on the Admissions Service and the overview of the Admissions budget.**
- **Note the overview of the statutory and non-statutory role of the LA's Admissions team.**

School Place Planning

- 3.34 The Council has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places in the local area. The school place planning provides individual school and area wide forecasts for future school provision, which identifies the need for additional

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school places. School place planning work across the planning departments of the Council on applications for schools and strategic housing developments to ensure the statutory function is met.

Members of Schools Forum are now asked to:

- Note the information on the LA's School Place planning function

LA response to the National Fair Funding consultation

- 3.35 On 22nd December 2016 the Department for Education launched the 2nd stage of the National Fair Funding Consultation covering both Mainstream and High Needs, responses were required by the 22nd March 2017.

Members of Schools Forum are now asked to:

- **Note that the Department for Education's consultations on Mainstream National Fair Funding and on High Needs funding deadline is 22nd March 2017**

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 Members of the Forum may provide alternatives in the course of the meeting.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 Various financial implications are included in this report relating to management of the retained DSG budget.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 Legal and Human rights implications have been taken into account in preparing this report. It is considered that the recommendations are compatible with Convention Rights.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 No additional implications were raised in the preparation of this report.

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Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.4 The proposals within this report are designed to allocate funding targeted at disadvantaged pupils and at pupils with low prior attainment and / or special education needs in order to narrow the attainment gap between these and other pupils.

Risk Management

- 5.5 Any specific risk management implications are highlighted in the body of the report.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Board Director, Resources (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix A - Swindon Borough Council Tuition Service Review June 2016
8.2 Appendix B - High Needs Strategic Review