

Report to: **Commissioning – Education Leadership Team**  
 From: Anne Mackay, Finance Manager – Education  
 Date: 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017  
 Subject: **Budget Monitoring Report 2017-18 – DSG Services**  
 Period: Period to May 2017

### **1) Background**

The Council's corporate budget monitoring timetable requires each Group to report its forecast outturn position each month and this report is based on the information provided at the end of May 2017.

Although the DSG position is included in Corporate Management Team and Cabinet reports it is unlikely that elected members will be overly concerned as this is outside the SBC General Fund and is essentially an issue for the Head of Education and his leadership team to manage in consultation with the Finance Team and Schools Forum.

A summary of how the 2017-18 DSG has been allocated is provided below. The 30 hours implementation grant is now included in the budgets for the DSG allocation and 3 & 4 year old nursery entitlement.

**Table 1 – DSG 2017-18 Overview**

	<u>£m</u>	<u>£m</u>
<u>Delegated</u>		
Maintained Mainstream schools	43.164	
Maintained Specialist settings (Special Schools and SRP's)	7.854	
Maintained Specialist Settings - £0.510m ESFA Post 16 funding	(0.510)	
Academy Mainstream Recoupment	82.597	
Academy Specialist settings (Special Schools and SRP's) Recoupment	2.147	
Post 16 Transfer for FE Colleges	1.484	
Commissioned Services	1.034	
		<b>137.769</b>
<u>Centrally retained for provision</u>		
Disadvantaged 2 year old nursery places	2.059	
Free Nursery Entitlement 3 & 4 year olds ( <i>incl. 30 hrs £1.351m</i> )	11.574	
In Year Pupil Growth	0.580	<b>14.213</b>
 High Need SEN		
Portage, SEN equipment, Therapeutic services etc.	0.809	
SBC top ups – mainstream settings	11.882	
HN Contingency	0.065	
Tuition Service	0.881	
Out of Borough placements	2.407	
Post 16 provision (new responsibilities)	1.875	
Exclusions income	(0.335)	<b>17.582</b>
 <u>Centrally retained to cover SBC and other costs</u>		
Admissions, Free School Meal eligibility checks, school licences, equal pay etc.	1.551	<b>1.551</b>
		<b>33.346</b>
Total DSG Allocation (including Early Years Pupil Premium of £0.128m)		<b>171.115</b>

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Anne Mackay, Finance Manager Education, Direct Dial 01793 465742, amackay@swindon.gov.uk

**2) Completion of Online Monitoring Forecasts**

As part of the budget monitoring reporting process the LA is required to report to Corporate Board how active Budget Managers have been in contributing to the on line information used to collate period end information. For DSG service areas the end of May completion rate was 94.6% (35/37). There is one cost centre that cannot be confirmed due to system parameters.

***The Leadership Team is asked to remind Budget Managers of the importance of this exercise and to encourage continued high participation for the remainder of the year.***

**3) High Risk Areas and Latest Projections**

Commentaries on all the main variances have been identified and those areas of the budget, which are inherently high-risk, and therefore have the potential to significantly affect the overall position, are provided below.

<b>Table 2 – Latest Budget Monitoring Position</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Budget 2017-18 £'000</b>	<b>Projected Variance £'000</b>
<b><u>High-Risk Areas</u></b>			
2 year old nursery place funding	2	2,059	(260)
Free nursery education (3&4 year olds)	3	11,574	(362)
High Needs Top ups (Mainstream and High Needs)	4	11,882	0
Notional SEN supplements (Mainstream)	4	400	0
External Placement Fees		2,407	102
HN Contingency		65	(65)
Post 16 HN Provision - New Responsibilities	5	1,875	0
School Exclusions / Dual registrations		(335)	0
Tuition Service		881	0
Schools Equal Pay Claims		31	0
<b>Subtotal High Risk Areas</b>		<b>30,838</b>	<b>(585)</b>
Other Low risk retained budgets	6	2,508	1
<b>Total Retained Budgets</b>		<b>33,346</b>	<b>(584)</b>
Maintained School Budgets (Mainstream)	7	43,164	0
Maintained School Budgets (Specialist Settings)	7	7,854	0
Commissioned Services		1,034	0
ESFA 6 <sup>th</sup> Form Place Funding	8	(510)	0
<b>Total DSG School Budgets</b>		<b>51,541</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total DSG Expenditure Budgets</b>		<b>84,888</b>	<b>(584)</b>
Mainstream Academy budgets for recoupment	9	82,597	0
ESFA direct funding of High Need places		2,147	104
ESFA direct funding of Post 16 transfer FE Colleges	9	1,484	0
<b>Total DSG Budget</b>		<b>171,116</b>	<b>(480)</b>
DSG Funding allocation receivable	1	(84,888)	726
DSG Funding recouped ESFA for Academies	1	(82,597)	0
DSG Funding recouped ESFA for HN places		(2,147)	(104)
ESFA Post 16 transfer FE Colleges	1	(1,484)	0
<b>Total DSG Funding Budgets</b>		<b>(171,116)</b>	<b>622</b>
<b>Total DSG Forecast</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>142</b>

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The Leadership Team is asked to note the risk areas above and the actual out-turn position, £0.142m below budget, will be reported to Corporate Management Team this month.

The main reasons for the variances from budget are provided below:

#### **Note 1) DSG Funding Receivable**

**£0.726m decreased funding**

#### **Budget allocation**

The budgeted DSG allocation is **£171.116m** including funding for Early Years Pupil Premium and an estimate of the DSG based on January 2017 and January 2018 census for 2 year olds and 3 & 4 year olds. As reported in previous years the LA budgets for the full DSG allocation from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) but the actual cash received is the DSG allocation less Academy Recoupment, High Need places funded directly by the ESFA and ESFA Post 16 Transfer for Further Education Colleges, new for 2017/18. The budgeted DSG receivable is **£84.888m**.

#### **Actual receipt**

As at **(A)** in table 3 below, after allowing for academy recoupment and ESFA Direct funding of HN places in Pre and Post 16 the 2017-18 DSG expected to be received is **£84.162m**, an overall variance in funding in 2017-18 of **£0.726m** when compared to budget. This reduction in funding is due to lower than anticipated census data for Early Years pupils for 2 year olds **£0.260m** (note 2) and 3 & 4 year olds **£0.362m** (note 3).

Included in the variance is **£0.104m** due to a late notification from the ESFA that the LA needs to fund the Element 2 for 26 places at a provision in a different local authority (note 12), which reduces the value of the DSG funding receivable.

As shown at **(B)** in Table 3 below, the total DSG expected to be received is **£84.162m**, an overall adverse variance of **£0.726m** when compared to the DSG budget allocation.

<b><u>Table 3– 2017-18 DSG receivable</u></b>			
<b>Allocation</b>	<b>Budget £m</b>	<b>Expected £m</b>	<b>Variance £m</b>
ESFA's DSG Allocation	(157.482)	(157.482)	0.000
ESFA DSG Early Years for 2 year olds	(2.059)	(1.799)	0.260
ESFA DSG Early Years for 3 & 4 year olds	(10.094)	(9.732)	0.362
ESFA DSG Early Years 30 Hours implementation	(1.351)	(1.351)	0.000
ESFA DSG Early Years Pupil Premium	(0.129)	(0.129)	0.000
<b>Total DSG allocation</b>	<b>(171.116)</b>	<b>(170.494)</b>	<b>0.622</b>
Less Academy recoupment	82.597	82.597	0.000
Less ESFA Direct Funding of High Need places	2.147	2.251	0.104
Less ESFA Transfer for Post 16 FE Colleges	1.484	1.484	0.000
<b>(A) DSG receivable 2017-18</b>	<b>(84.888)</b>	<b>(84.162)</b>	<b>0.726</b>
Early Years Spring 17 Census 2 yr olds – tbc	0.000	0.000	0.000
Early Years Spring 17 Census 3&4 yr olds - tbc	0.000	0.000	0.000
<b>(B) DSG expected to be received in year 17-18</b>	<b>(84.888)</b>	<b>(84.162)</b>	<b>0.726</b>

**Note 2 – Disadvantaged two year old nursery funding      £0.260m Decreased expenditure  
£0.260m Decreased funding**

Following the release of the January 2017 census the total payments for 2 year old places for the year are expected to be **£0.260m** lower than the budget of £2.059m in line with fewer places taken up than budgeted in the January 2017 pupil census.

The funding is based on the actual pupil numbers at the spring census 2017 (5/12ths) and spring census 2018 (7/12ths). The spring 2017 census numbers were lower than anticipated and have fallen further in the spring 2018 census so the funding forecast has been recalculated. The ESFA will not confirm the funding until July 2018 so the actual funding expected for 2017-18 is still an estimate. Funding for early years is now calculated on the number of part time equivalents rather than full time equivalent.

<b>Table 4 – Early Years 2 year old 2017-18 DSG Funding</b>		
	2017-18 Budget	2017-18 Projection
January 2017 Census PTE (5/12)	679	593.33
January 2018 Census PTE (7/12)	679	593.33
<b>Full Year Equivalent</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>593.33</b>
2 year old funding rate per PTE	£3,032.40	£3,032.40
<b>Total DSG receivable</b>	<b>£2,059,000</b>	<b>£1,799,224</b>
Variance		(£259,776)

The estimated net decrease in 2 year old pupils of 85.67 FTE will also result in a **£0.260m** reduction of DSG. These projections will be updated following the Summer Term payments and subsequently through the year.

**Note 3 – Free nursery education (3 & 4 year olds):      £0.362m Decreased expenditure  
£0.362m Decreased funding**

The 2017-18 forecast position for 3 & 4 year olds is **£0.362m** lower than budget based on the spring 17 census take up, the expenditure in Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) settings is expected to be **£0.362m** less than budget.

This element of DSG is based on participation and the LA anticipates that along with the decrease in expenditure there will also be a decrease in the amount of Dedicated Schools Grant receivable as the PTE numbers were lower than budgeted based on the recent spring census.

The budget for 3 & 4 year olds includes £1.351m for the 30 Hours Early Implementer scheme, the actual expenditure for this budget is currently expected to be in line with budget. The Pupil Premium expected to be paid through the 3 & 4 year olds budget is **£0.129m** and at this point in the year is also expected to be in line with budget.

The ESFA will not confirm the funding until July 2018 so the funding projection is still provisional. Early Years DSG is calculated based on 5/12ths of the January 2017 and 7/12ths of the January 2018 Early Years Census. The latest DSG calculation compared to the 2017-18 budget agreed by Schools Forum is summarised below and is now on Part Time Equivalent (PTE).

<b>Table 5 – Early Years 3 and 4 year old 2017-18 DSG Funding</b>		
	2017-18 Budget	2017-18 Projection
January 2017 Census PTE (5/12)	3,880	3,740
January 2018 Census PTE (7/12)	3,880	3,740
<b>Full Year Equivalent number of PTE</b>	<b>3,880</b>	<b>3,740</b>
3 and 4 year old funding rate	£2,587.38	£2,587.38
<b>Total DSG receivable</b>	<b>£10,039,034</b>	<b>£9,676,801</b>
Variance		(£362,233)

The estimated net decrease in early years' pupils of approximately 140.0 FTE will result in a **£0.362m** reduction of DSG.

**Note 4 – External placements:**

**£0.102m Pressure**

The overall pressure in external placements is expected to be £0.102m more than budget. Expenditure increased by **£0.698m** for 18 new placements agreed since the budget was calculated earlier this year. The cost of these additional placements are offset by a reduction in costs of **£0.596m** due to the ending high cost placements, delayed placement start dates and amendments to contributions for a number of placements.

**Note 5 – High Needs Contingency:**

**£0.065m Below budget**

During the 2017-18 budget setting process Schools Forum agreed that a contingency of £0.065m would be held to cover additional high need top up and external placements costs. The **£0.065m** budget is not spent but this saving is not enough to offset all of the emerging pressures in External Placement fees £0.102m (note 4), though the High Needs Top up budget is currently forecast to be in line with budget. There is an overall pressure between the three budgets of £0.037m, and there are inherent risks with these demand led budgets.

**Note 6 – ESFA recoupment for academies and HN places:**

**£0.104m Pressure**

The ESFA recouped Element 2 funding to pay directly to a High Needs setting, the LA was informed of this in March 2017 **£0.104m**.

**The Leadership Team is asked to note the actual out-turn position.**

**3) DSG Balance**

In accordance with DfE grant conditions the DSG must be treated by the LA as being ring fenced for specified educational purposes and, in addition to consulting the Schools Forum on how each year's grant is allocated, the Forum must also be advised on any year end surplus or deficits. The actual year end position is as follows:

<b>Table 6 – DSG Balance</b>	Latest Position
<b>Opening DSG balance b/fwd from 2016-17</b>	<b>£0.568m</b>
Less forecast year-end position (see table 2)	£0.142m
<b>Actual DSG balance unallocated</b>	<b>£0.426m</b>

**The Leadership Team is asked to note that the unallocated DSG balance is expected to be £0.426m and that all expenditure funded from this balance will need to be allowed under the early years and school finance regulations and be agreed by Schools Forum.**

**4) Subjective Analysis**

A summary of the year-end position of £0.584m across the £33.346m centrally retained budget by type of expenditure compared to the budget profiles is shown below. This presents a different view to the more traditional analysis by service area. This is a standard table used by the Finance Team which has been included in the DSG report to improve consistency.

**Subjective analysis Delegated DSG May 2017**

Group Budget position by expenditure type	Year to date budget £'000	Year to date actual £'000	Year to date variance £'000	Total Budget 2017/18 £'000	Forecast Variance 2017/18 £'000
Employees	262	278	16	1,549	(0)
Premises	1,038	1,028	(9)	1,098	0
Transport	2	3	0	13	0
Supplies & Services	403	165	(238)	1,389	152
3rd Party Payments	3,486	7,257	3,771	34,668	(659)
Internal Recharges	1,666	3	(1,663)	1,805	4
Capital Financing	0	0	0	0	0
Income	(1,608)	(1,300)	308	(7,176)	(81)
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,249</b>	<b>7,434</b>	<b>2,184</b>	<b>33,346</b>	<b>(584)</b>

To better understand the above table the following annexes are attached to this report.

- **Annex A** – this shows a breakdown of all the 2017-18 retained budgets by type of expenditure and income and produces the totals in the “Total budget 2017-18” column in table 7 above
- **Annex B** – this shows a breakdown of each services profiled budget to date compared with actual spend to date. This will present useful information for both year to date actuals and full year projections. The aim is to highlight and address variances now, rather than wait until nearer the year end where late changes undermine confidence in our reporting.

**The Leadership Team is asked to note the addition of subjective analysis information and the continued need to agree realistic budget profiles for input to the oracle system.**

**5) Improving Forecasting**

Given that we are accountable to the Schools Forum regarding the effective management of the DSG, meetings with senior Budget Managers will be scheduled through to the end of 2017-18 to take place shortly after the month end forecasting deadlines. This will enable all high risk forecast figures to be regularly challenged and this enabled the wider budget position to be assessed, particularly on high need budgets, prior to reporting through to corporate board and in some months the Schools Forum.

**6) Summary of Key Recommendations**

The Leadership Team is asked to:-

- Note that the forecast out-turn position, which is a projection of £0.142m above budget, will be reported to Corporate Board this month
- Note the risk areas above, the forecast out-turn position and suggested actions
- Note that the unallocated DSG balance will be £0.426m.

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