



Schools Forum

Date: 17 September 2015

Time: 8:30 am

Venue: Shrewsbury Training
and Development
Centre

Item

Public

Paper

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DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT MONITORING

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Summary

This report outlines to Schools Forum members the centrally retained Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) forecast outturn position at the end of July 2015.

Recommendation

This report is for information only.

REPORT

Outturn 2015-16

The overall outturn against centrally retained DSG is forecast to be £1,077k in surplus at the end of July 2015. The forecast is a prudent estimate based on the fact that the charges for the Autumn and Spring terms have still to be confirmed.

Main reasons for a variation from budget of greater than £100k:

Line 1.2.1 – Top Up Funding – Maintained Providers

An underspend of £981k is currently forecast - £423k relates directly to the top up payments the local authority makes to maintained schools. This area is less predictable than other areas and therefore the reported figures are prudent estimates on forecast changes to statements during the Autumn 2015 and Spring 2016 terms. In addition the recoupments received from and paid to other local authorities for children attending schools out of area is currently showing a projected underspend of £558k. This is due to improvements in the systems for capturing information which were not complete when the budgets were set.

Line 1.2.2 – Top Up Funding – Academies and Free Schools

An underspend of £185k is currently forecast. This area is hard to forecast at this stage in the year and so prudent estimates have been built in when forecasting changes to statements during the Autumn and Spring terms.

Line 1.2.5 – SEN Support Services

The Joint Arrangement with Telford & Wrekin Council for the provision of a Sensory Inclusion Service is currently forecasting a underspend of £100k due to staffing vacancies in the service.

1.4.12 – Exceptions agreed by Secretary of State (Deficit Balance)

A cost of £168,141 is reported. As agreed by Forum last year this is the second year charge relating to a secondary school deficit balance incurred in 2014-15 at the point of conversion to a sponsored academy.