



Agenda Item
8

Report Status

For information/note	<input type="checkbox"/>
For consultation & views	<input type="checkbox"/>
For decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Report to Haringey Schools Forum – Date 1st December 2016

Report Title: High Needs Block
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Purpose: 1. To inform members of the latest projected outturn for the 2016-17 High Needs Block and the implications for the future funding of the Block.
Recommendations: In addition to continuing with existing strategies where possible we recommend:: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Survey user perceptions of the effectiveness and impact of SEN support services, funded through the High Needs Block.• Dependent on perceived impact,: maintain, de-commission or trade services to settings to reduce spend within the high needs block• Continue the use of the secondary lump sum for children with EHC, in a two year rolling programme as introduced in 2016-17.

1. Back to Budget Plans

A report to Forum in February 2016 set out the challenges facing the High Needs Block (HNB) and an action plan to bring the budget back into balance, including any cumulative deficit brought forward. This was revised for Forum in July. The following Table sets out the 2016-17 position reported in February and the latest projections.

	Feb 16	Oct 16	Variance
	£000	£000	£000
High Needs Block DSG	32,579	32,623	44
Original Projected Expenditure	33,206	33,206	0
In-Year Deficit Before Savings	627	583	(44)
Planned Savings/(Unplanned Spend)	498	(332)	(830)
Revised In-Year Deficit	129	915	786
Deficit Brought Forward	678	46	(632)
Cumulative Deficit C/Fwd	807	961	154

The detailed projections at the end of October 2016 are shown in Appendix 1.

The table shows that the deterioration in the projected deficit to be carried forward to 2017-18 is £154k. However Forum should note that this includes the use of School Block under-spends at the end of 2015-16 to offset the over-spend on the High Needs Block. Of material concern is the non-achievement of the planned reduction in expenditure through the proposed savings and the further increase in expenditure.

The deficit will need to be contained within the overall envelope of the DSG including reserves and further savings urgently identified.

The Dedicated Schools Budget 2016-17 to Forum on 20th October set out in Appendix 2 the indicative High Needs Block budgets for 2017-18. The High Needs Block allocation will be confirmed around mid-December and final proposed budgets will be reported to Forum in January.

The following report reviews the agreed actions for back to budget, and outlines the current budget position. It concludes that the proposed actions are not radical enough to achieve a balanced position.

2. Progress in each proposed action

2.1 Tuition funding for staff members in base budget not agency. Total to be achieved : £38,000K

This has been achieved. The tuition centre claims the top up for children who are attending the centre from the SEN department which is recouped from

the child's original school. Agency staffing has not been required over this term.

2.2 Bring children back to in borough special schools (add 8 and then 16) reducing out-borough or independent placements. Total to be achieved £117,000 by 17/18

There were 3 children who came back to borough from independent or out-borough places in September 2016, with a further 5 who could move in the Sept 2017 should there be an increase in school places in the Heartlands Resource Base, Riverside, The Vale and The Brook.

The places were funded through the 'Bring In' fund.

Additional places opened cost 10K per child before top up, so increases in places at special schools need to be carefully considered as there are current vacancies, although not in the year groups or offer needed by the children in out of borough places.

Whilst children have moved to local special school places at secondary transfer, there continues to be need for out of borough or independent school places to meet some children's specific needs. These children's needs could not be met by local provision following consultation. These children include those needing Social Emotional and Mental Health Specialist Provision, and those with highly challenging behaviour associated with their Autism.

The opening of The Grove Special School, which is a stand alone special school, is linked with Heartlands High School and nearby Haringey primary and secondary schools. It will meet the local need in the long term for the majority of the children with Autism.

There are delays in the opening of The Grove, however, due to delays in identifying a permanent site. This means that the cohort of children who are currently attending stand alone specialist independent schools out borough, cannot be returned to local special schools in significant numbers. This was part of the original initiative to reduce the high needs block spend. This initiative was also supported by increasing place numbers in local specialist provision, to reduce the pace of use of out borough places. This ensured there were enough special school places at key transition points e.g. reception, secondary and 6th form transition.

2.2.1 Unfortunately the place by place approach is not sufficient to mitigate the increased spend due to the needs of the children requiring new placements. There is understandable resistance from families to move children to more local schools when they are currently well settled, unless there is a permanent and defined offer that they feel meets their child's needs. Interim solutions to the delays in opening The Grove, such as increasing school places in some of the established special schools, have

reduce the pace of the accumulating pressure on the budget but have not been radical enough to bring the budget back to balance.

2.2.2 The introduction of the SEN secondary schools lump sum payment, proportionate to the numbers of children with EHC's throughout the schools in first wave, has been successful in ensuring that particular schools are not over-subscribed with children with EHC's at secondary transfer. The second wave will distribute the lump sum proportionate to the number of children in year 7.

Table to show number of Haringey Children in Haringey Secondary Schools with an EHC

	Year 7 2016	Year 7 2015	Total 2015	Total 2016
Alexandra Park	7	9	70	54
Fortismere	5	3	49	33
Gladesmore	6	13	45	39
Greig City Academy	3	0	10	10
Harris Academy Tottenham	2	0	0	3
*Heartlands High	9	15	66	54
Highgate Wood	1	3	37	27
Hornsey School	3	0	15	16
Northumberland Park Community	5	4	29	22
Park View Academy	6	8	25	28
St Thomas More	2	3	11	7
Woodside High	4	5	27	23

It is recommended that this approach continues in 18/19 and 19/20

2.3 Standardise top-ups for Post-16 through banding, tighten procedures and criteria for 19+ year olds, and include joint funding. Totals to be achieved £117,000 + £88,000

Bandings have not been introduced as yet, and further work needs to be done here. Average top up rates have been more consistent and slightly lower, with challenges accepted from providers who had requested top up's higher than expected.

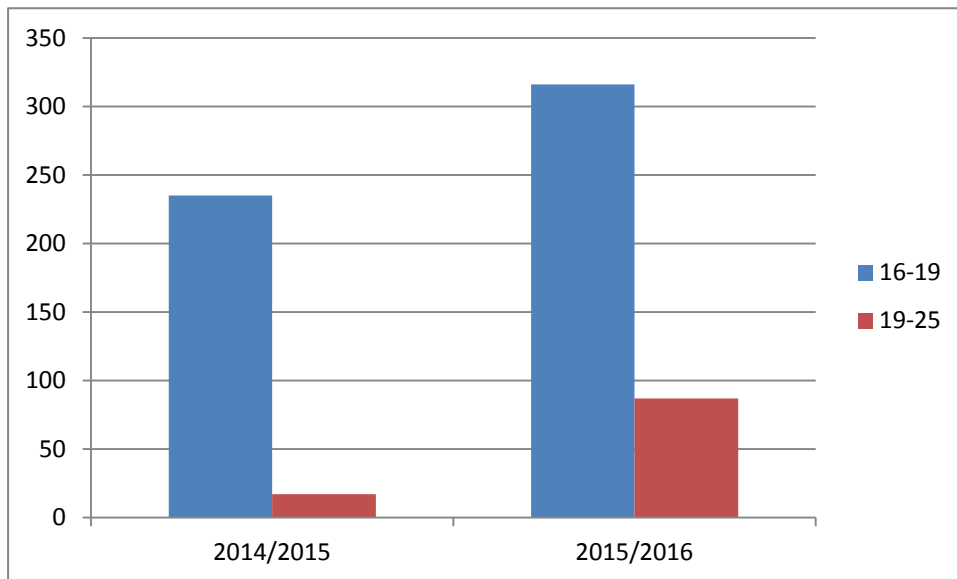
Numbers continue to rise in requests for education places for young people 19+ however. More work around destination planning and

transition is needed to ensure those leaving 6th forms are kept locally after their 16-19 college place has ended.

There was a recent Haringey tribunal which ruled in favour of a residential college place for a young person at P levels aged 22 years, as the tribunal felt the young person's learning and therapy needs were such that they needed a 'waking day' curriculum in order to continue to make progress in their learning. This ruling has significant implications for attempts to cease education support for young people with complex needs who may have slowed or plateaued in their education progress. Challenges to local authority decision making for this group of young people is unlikely to be successful, if there is not a comprehensive local education and social care offer, with a high level of therapies.

Joint funding for those after 18 years with the CCG and adult social care is secured, to the value of 513 K in total for those in this academic year from adult services, this is slightly higher than last year's contribution. The cohort who is eligible for joint funding is fairly stable, however. The increase is in the cohort of young people who are eligible for support from education only.

Table to show numbers of students in education in years 14/15 compared to 15/16



The majority of students are studying in Conel or Area 51, however more than 130 young people are in college places outside of Haringey that are maintained or non maintained places . Whilst more stringent review of the top up offer has helped reduce the spend, the range of providers (and the range of their fees) is a barrier in setting expectations. An expression of

interest has been submitted for a Free School in this age range, to be based in the borough, with the specific purpose of linking students to work places.

2.4 Review of additional support in top-ups for out-borough places.

Total to be achieved £100,000.

12 settings have been audited with the conclusion that although the children are identified who could come back to borough, the current placement costs cannot be reduced, as top ups are either set by tribunal or part of the full place costs. The majority of additional support costs are special needs assistant or therapies for those children in Charedi community schools in Hackney, where therapies are bought from Binoh or similar organisations. These services will be included as part of the speech and language review as they are in addition to the costs of therapies currently commissioned from the high needs block. This may be achieved in a different way as part of the review of commissioned services, however there is a review of this service underway with the funding returned to the DSG for the post.

2.5 Pre-commission of places for YP with a saving of £25k each - 5 complex needs and 15 SEMH. Total to be achieved £117,000 + £102,000

This piece of work is underway but will not be in place until September 2017.

2.6 Review and amalgamate funding for Under 5s and reorganise Early Years Service following introduction of top up's. Total to be achieved £50,000

Top ups have been introduced with a slow start of 11 requests to date. Further work needs to be done to ensure that the top ups are used to provide specific additional services.

The Early Support places and pre-school specialist resource base were reviewed. There were no referrals to the specialist resource base this year, and this has now been closed with the offer of the top ups to preschool settings taking its place. This has been a part year effect saving of 70K with a full year effect saving 2017/2018 of 150K.

The Early Support places are funded in total at 255K in three children centres, with the numbers of places below giving a cost of £7,492 per place for 21.5 places.

The Table below shows current early support places, locations of vacancies, and comparative numbers of places 2015 to 2016.

Centre	Total places 2015	No. of places (part time) 2-3 years old	No. of vacancies 2-3 years old	No. of places (part time) 3-4 years old	No. of vacancies 3-4 years old
Stonecroft	6	2	-	2	1
Woodside	2	1	-	1	-
Triangle	8	2	1	4	-
Park Lane	2	1	-	1	-
BWF CC	6	2	-	4	1
Rowland Hill	12 (7.5)	6	2	6	1
Woodlands Park	12 (7)	5	2	7	1
Pembury	10 (6)	3	1	7	-
Total	58	22	6	32	4

These places continue to be well used by the families.

2.7 Reduce additional payment for EHC volumes. Total to be achieved £40,000 for by April 2017.

This working party is to be established with the high needs working party to include a finance officer and representation from primary and secondary heads. The working party needs to establish the thresholds by which schools can request additional payments into their budgets, when they have high volumes of children with EHC plans.

2.8 Reduction on commissioned services. Total to be achieved £58,000 for 2016.

We are reviewing the commissioned services, which are the Visual Impairment Service, Hearing Impairment Service, Speech and Language Therapy and Markfield. The contracts will be renewed for Speech and Language Therapy and the Visual Impairment Service in April 2017. There is a new contract in place for the Markfield that is for 2 years.

The review of the SLT service will include out of borough commissioned therapies, and the amount of therapy that schools feel they would prefer to have on a traded basis. It is likely that some of this service will need to move to a traded model in order for this level of saving to be achieved. We will also be exploring cross borough commissioning for some services, in

a similar manner to the cross borough commissioning for the Hearing Impairment Team. This is likely to be achieved.

2.9 Post reductions in the SEND Service / increased HNB income - 5 posts at over 2 years. £250,000 17/18

We are reviewing the role of the advisory teachers with the view to moving to a traded model for some of the advisory teacher's time, particularly for the older age groups. This would mean returning some posts back to the HNB to start with one post at 60K for 2017.

Conclusion

Whilst the strategies above have delivered some cost saving to the high needs block, more radical decisions need to be taken about the strategies used, as those with the highest predicted return have either not been effective or will be slower to take effect. Suggestions are included in recommendations section. The following table summarised the current position.

The High Needs Sub-Committee will continue to look at options and further reports will be brought to Forum in January and February; decisions will be required on how over-spends in high needs will be managed within the overall DSG resources available.

Strategy 16/17	Amount to save	RAG	Reason and actual save to date
Use of Tuition	38K		Achieved
Post 16 costs	204k		Numbers of young people, and numbers of providers
Top up of out borough	100k		Not feasible
Pre- commissioning places SEMH/Complex Needs	219k		Timescales – will work but slow to establish
Early Years Offer	50K		Achieved
SEN additional Support contribution	40k		Working party needs to be established
Re-commissioning of services	58k		timescales
Total	709K		Actual save 100K

Demand continues to rise for college and 6th form places in post 16 age group, and need for a bespoke services or school for those with high level Autism.

Recommendations

Review of strategies agreed by the High Needs Block Sub-Committee include:

- Review of impact of SEN services currently DSG funded in the council
- Review of impact of SEN services currently commissioned by the council and funded through the DSG
- Types of support required by schools to effectively maintain children's placements

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November 2016

Appendix 1 High Needs Block Budgets and Projected Spend for 2016-17. (October 2016 Projections).

DSG	HNB	
Recoupment	31,640,000	
	-1,334,672	
	<u>30,305,328</u>	
Inter Block Transfers	2,317,300	
	<u>32,622,628</u>	
		Projected Variance
Profit Centre/Group		
Total for *		
E30000 Indiv Schools Mgr	4,280,000	0
E41110 Head of Standards (DSG)	9,000	0
E41211 Attendance and Welfare.	177,000	0
E41215 Simmons House (DSG)	180,000	-200
E41217 Tuition Service (DSG)	550,000	0
E41234 Alternative Prov Com	1,137,900	-36,400
E41239 Visual Impairment Provision (DSG)	177,000	0
E41240 SEN Strategy Manager - (DSG)	142,900	0
E41241 Language Support Team (DSG)	458,200	-104,000
E41243 SEN - Admin Team	182,500	0
E41247 Hearing Impairment Team (DSG)	162,700	67,500
E41248 SEN - Transport - (DSG)	500,000	0
E41250 LOVAAS (DSG)	27,900	0
E41251 Speech & Language Therapy (DSG)	460,000	0
E41252 Parent Partnerp Mark	98,900	-4,700
E41254 Autism Support Team (DSG)	189,500	-30,200
E41260 Indepndt&VoluntarySc	5,591,200	288,200
E41283 Special Schools Top Up (DSG)	6,237,100	173,700
E41284 Mainstrea. Schools Top Up (DSG)	4,489,800	407,700
E41285 Special Units Top Up (DSG)	676,000	0
E41286 Higher Education Top Up (DSG)	2,139,000	203,200
E41287 SEN contingency (DSG)	1,462,000	0
E41288 High Needs in Early Years (DSG)	255,100	0
Integ. Work.&Fam.Sup	1,000,000	0
Overheads (DSG)	800,000	0
IYFAP	338,000	0
TU Representation	2,000	0
E30000 Contingency for Schools in Financial Difficulty		
Portage	200,000	-50,000
Pathways to Early Intervention	395,000	0
Brining in Fund	290,328	0
	<u>32,622,628</u>	<u>914,800</u>
	0	
Brought Forward		46,000
Cumulative		960,800
In Year Variance from Plan		

Planned Variance	129,000
Shortfall in Savings	785,800
Brought Forward Variance	
Planned B/Fwd	678,000
Actual B/Fwd	46,000
Reduction	632,000
Net Change in Position	153,800
Planned C/Fwd to 17-18	807,000
Projected C/Fwd to 17-18	960,000
Difference	153,000