



Schools Forum

Report title: Dedicated Schools Grant 2022/23

Date: 28th June 2022

Key decision: No.

Item number: 7

Outline and recommendations

This report sets out the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) position for 2022/23.

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

This report is for information and guidance only.

Schools Forum to agree to receive regular updates at each meeting.

To note the potential pressure on the High Needs Block.

Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to update Schools Forum on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2022/23. The DSG 2022/23 position shown in this report is the original allocation **adjusted** for Academy recoupment and High Needs import/export adjustments (i.e net placements made to and from other boroughs for High Needs).

Background

- 1.2 Local Authorities (LA) in partnership with their Schools Forum and partners, including schools, are required to operate all expenditure within the DSG allocation. Where this has not been the case there needs to be consideration of the impact on the allocation for the following year.
- 1.3 Overspends, where they cannot be contained by first call on next year's budgets, will require submission by the Local Authority/Schools Forum of a formal mitigation plan to the DFE.
- 1.4 It should be noted that it is not permissible for the Dedicated Schools Grant to be subsidised by the Council's General Fund.

DSG 2022/23

- 1.5 The DSG for 2022/23 was provisionally announced in December 2021. DSG update is a standing item for each Schools Forum meeting.
- 1.6 The report confirms the 2022/23 DSG position revised as at May 2022. At this stage the DSG has only been revised (topsliced) for Academy Recoupment and High Needs Import Export adjustments. Both of these adjustments have a net neutral impact on the cash position, i.e. the topsliced funding is transferred to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) to allocate funding instead of via Lewisham LA.
- 1.7 We are still awaiting revision to the Early Years Block for the Spring 2022 census—this will confirm 2021/22 final position but also set the base for 2022/23.

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1.8 Table one below details the summary position for the DSG

Table 1

	Schools block (£m)	Central school services block (£m)	High needs block (£s)	Early years block (£s)	Total DSG allocation (£s)
Gross	221.07	3.69	70.24	24.12	319.12
Net	177.27	3.69	69.73	24.12	274.81
Virements	-0.71		0.71		0.00
Working budget	176.56	3.69	70.44	24.12	274.81
Add General Fund Contribution		0.50			0.5
Revised Working budget	176.56	4.19	70.44	24.12	275.31
Projected Spend	176.56	4.39	70.44	24.12	275.51

- Schools Block is expected to be on target as the main funding has been allocated to schools as part of the authority proforma tool APT process.
- Central School Services Block (CSSB) – this has been supported by £500k from the General fund, plus £200k from prior year funds to support the cost. Officers are currently working on services for 2023/24 at which point the grant is expected to cease with potential residue transferring to the Revenue Support Grant. A report will be presented to schools forum in the Autumn to further discuss.
- High needs block. Overall funding has increased from £63m to £69m. Alongside this change sits the mitigation plan. The main priority is to stabilise the high needs block and commence the change towards a fortuitous circle. We have now been formally approached by the DfE to commence engagement towards a Deficit recovery plan.
- Early Years Block. This remains provisional in two aspects, firstly the 2022/23 provisional figure once the 2021/22 is finalised. Following that, the 2022/23 still remains provisional until January 2022 pupil data count.

1.9 High Needs will remain a standing item on the Schools Forum meetings.

Financial implications

1.10 The report confirms the DSG allocation as advised for 2021/22. The Early Years Block remains provisional

1.11 The report reconfirms the anticipated overspend position for High Needs which is currently being reviewed.

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1.12 The report acknowledges the risk of potential requirement for a Deficit Recovery Plan.

Legal implications

1.13 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report. The anticipated overspend to the High Needs Block and the potentiality of DfE intervention for a recovery plan, is to be noted.

Equalities implications

1.14 There are no direct equalities impacts arising.

Climate change and environmental implications

1.15 Not applicable

Crime and disorder implications

1.16 Not applicable

Health and wellbeing implications

1.17 Not applicable

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