

West Berkshire Schools' Forum	
Title of Report:	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Budget for 2015/16 – Final Proposals
Date of Meeting:	9th March 2015
Contact Officer(s)	Claire White
For Decision	

1. School Funding Settlement 2015/16

1.1 The Department for Education (DfE) announced the provisional school funding (DSG) settlement for 2015/16 on 17th December 2014. DSG funding is split into 3 funding blocks – schools, early years and high needs, each calculated in a different way. Although the blocks are not ring fenced, they provide a guideline on how the total funding should be allocated, and where possible the aim should be to maintain this. A breakdown showing the calculation of each funding block is provided in Appendix A and a detailed explanation of each figure was provided in the report which came to the last meeting.

1.2 **Schools Block.** The DSG allocation for 2015/16 is now fixed by the DfE, though the funding available may change if there is any carry forward from the current financial year to next. The total allocation for the year is £96.093m, and it has been assumed there will be no carry forward of funds

1.3 **Early Years Block.** The current allocation received from the DfE is based on the three and four year olds counted in the January 2014 census, whereas the final allocation will be based 5/12 on the January 2015 census and 7/12 on the January 2016 census of two, three and four year olds. The 2015/16 budget has been based on the January 2015 census and assumes an in-year increase in funding of two year old funding due to the probable increase in numbers of two year olds accessing the free entitlement. The allocation is calculated as £6.109m for 3 and 4 year olds and £0.823m for two year olds. The latest forecast for 2014/15 indicates an underspend of £0.722m and this figure has been added to the estimated resources. The Early Years Steering Group is requesting a carry forward of the total sum as one-off funding in order to maintain funding rates to providers in 2015/16.

1.4 **High Needs Block.** The High Needs block funding for 2015/16 is now fixed at £17.711m. It is currently assumed there will be a carry forward of £200k to 2015/16 as one-off funding, meaning an overall reduction in funding in this block.

2. Final Budget Proposal for 2015/16

2.1 The following table summarises the DSG allocations per block compared to the proposed expenditure. The schools budget was agreed and set at the last meeting of the Schools' Forum. The balance is due to the licences cost now

notified by the DfE being slightly lower than estimated. The Early years block has been updated following receipt of January 2015 census data and now shows it close to balance. There has been few change made to the High Needs proposals though further information is now provided on these proposals. A detailed breakdown of the budget, split between the three blocks is shown in Appendix B.

	DSG Funding £'000	Budget Proposed £'000	Headroom/ (Shortfall) £'000	Proposals £'000	Net Position £'000
Schools Block	96,093	96,090	3		3
Early Years Block	7,729	7,715	14		14
High Needs Block	17,911	18,951	(1,040)	835	(205)
Total	121,733	122,756	(1,023)	835	(187)

2.2 The detailed budget proposals for the early years and high needs blocks is set out in separate reports on this agenda, which include savings proposals for the high needs block.

Recommendation from Heads Funding Group:

1. Agree all the High Needs savings EXCEPT for the Language and Literacy Units (LAL) of £67,300.
2. Agree the Early Years budget.
3. The shortfall balance of £254k will likely be met from the current year under spend in the High Needs Block.

Appendices

Appendix A – Estimated DSG Funding 2015/16

Appendix B – Proposed DSG Budget 2015/16

Appendix A

Estimated DSG Funding 2015/16 as at 20th FEBRUARY 2015			
1		Final 2014/15	Estimate 2015/16
2		Oct 2013 census	Oct 2014 census
3	SCHOOLS BLOCK		
4	Pupil Numbers		
5	School Census - Mainstream	21,922.0	22,062.0
6	Add: Reception Uplift	46.0	49.0
7	Less: Pupils/Places in Resource Units	-119.0	-119.0
8	Total Pupil numbers	21,849.0	21,992.0
9			
10	DSG Guaranteed Unit of Funding	£4,359.00	£4,367.93
11	DSG based on pupil numbers	£95,239,791	£96,059,517
12			
13	Plus: Adjustment for NQT	£33,115	£33,115
14	Less: Reduction for Carbon Reduction Commitment	-£123,140	
15			
16	ADD Carry Forward from Previous Year	-£23,050	£0
17			
18	Total Schools Block including Academies	95,126,716	96,092,632
19			
20	EARLY YEARS BLOCK (Provisional)	Jan 2014 census	Jan 2015 census
21	Pupil Numbers (FTE)		
22	School Census - Mainstream	421.0	422.0
23	Early Years Census	1,114.0	1,140.0
24	Adjustment for universal provision	0.0	0.0
25	Total Pupil numbers	1,535.0	1,562.0
26			
27	DSG Guaranteed Unit of Funding	£3,911.00	£3,911.00
28	DSG based on pupil numbers	£6,003,385	£6,108,982
29			
30	Difference in provision for DSG due in previous year:		
31	Provision for estimated DSG	-£170,090.00	
32	Actual DSG	£175,680.00	
33			
34	Two Year Old Funding 14/15	£1,316,928	
35	DSG Guaranteed Unit of Funding 2 Year Olds 15/16 (FTE)		£5,092.00
36	Estimated number of 2 year olds per counts (FTE)		162
37	DSG based on estimated number of 2 year olds		£823,224
38			
39	Plus Indicative Early Years PPG		£74,590
40			
41	ADD Carry Forward from Previous Year	£530,114	£722,400
42			
43	Total Early Years Block	7,856,017	7,729,196
44			
45	HIGH NEEDS BLOCK		
46	Previous Year High Needs Budget	16,587,354	17,550,154
47	Adjustments:		
48	Less NMSS grant in previous year	-40,974	
49	Add NMSS grant in current year	43,254	
50	Funding Adjustment	446,218	17,000
51	Place number review adjustments	17,007	
52	Additional Funding	489,977	144,000
53	Additional PRU post 16 place	7,318	
54	ADD Carry Forward from Previous Year	999,890	200,000
55			
56	Total High Needs Block	18,550,044	17,911,154
57			
58	TOTAL DSG FUNDING AVAILABLE	121,532,777	121,732,981