

# Dedicated Schools Grant Monitoring Report 2024/25 – Quarter One

**Report being considered by:** Schools Forum on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024  
**Report Author:** Lisa Potts  
**Item for:** Information **By:** All Forum Members

## 1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To report the forecast financial position of the services funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), highlighting any under or over spends, and to highlight the cumulative deficit on the DSG

## 2. Recommendation

2.1 1.1 That the report be noted.

**Is the Schools' Forum required to make a decision as part of this report or subsequent versions due to be considered later in the meeting cycle?**

Yes:

No:

## 3. Implications and Impact Assessment

Equalities Impact:	Positive	No Impact	Negative	Commentary
	A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X	

<b>B</b> Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		x		
<b>Data Impact:</b>		x		
<b>Consultation and Engagement:</b>				

#### 4. Introduction/Background

- 4.1 The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is a ring fenced specific grant which can only be spent on school/pupil activity as set out in The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2024. The Local Authority and Schools' Forum are responsible for ensuring that the DSG is deployed correctly according to the Regulations. Monitoring of spend against the grant needs to take place regularly to enable decision making on over spends/under spends and to inform future year budget requirements.
- 4.2 There are four DSG funding blocks: Schools Block, High Needs Block, Early Years Block and Central Schools Services Block. The funding for each of the four blocks is determined by a national funding formula.

#### 5. Supporting Information

- 5.1 The 2024/25 Dedicated Schools Grant allocation is £181.9m. This includes £57m which funds Academies and post-16 high needs places which is paid direct by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) to schools. The DSG budget for 2024/25 has been built utilising the remaining grant.
- 5.2 The Schools block is ring fenced but the Local Authority can transfer up to 0.5% of the funding out of the schools block with Schools Forum agreement. The other blocks are not subject to this limitation on transfers. For the 2024/25 budget, Schools Forum agreed to transfer 0.25% of the Schools Block funding to the High Needs Block amounting to £335k.
- 5.3 The DSG expenditure budgets required for 2024/25 total £133.7m, which is £7.9m more than the funding available. As a result, a £7.9m in-year efficiency target has been set against this in order to balance the DSG budget, against the High Needs Block
- 5.4 There is a brought forward deficit on the DSG of £9.45m.

5.5 The forecast position at the end of June is shown in Table 1. A more detailed position per cost centre is shown in Appendix A.

Prior Years			2024/25					
2021/22 Outturn	2022/23 Outturn	2023/24 Outturn	Table 1 - DSG Block forecast 2024/25	Original Budget	Budget Changes	Final Budget	Quarter 1 Forecast	Deficit/ (surplus)
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
			<b>Expenditure:</b>					
70,512	73,090	77,070	Schools Block (inc ISB)	79,518	0	79,518	79,518	0
9,899	10,240	11,325	Early Years Block	17,371	0	17,371	17,329	(42)
1,001	967	935	Central School Services Block	961	0	961	974	13
23,827	26,456	31,157	High Needs Block	35,823	0	35,823	34,927	(896)
0	0	0	High Needs Block In-Year deficit recovery	(7,881)	0	(7,881)	0	7,881
<b>105,240</b>	<b>110,754</b>	<b>120,487</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>125,793</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>125,793</b>	<b>132,747</b>	<b>6,955</b>
			<b>DSG Grant Income:</b>					
(70,293)	(72,937)	(77,005)	Schools Block	(79,518)	0	(79,518)	(79,518)	0
(9,834)	(10,102)	(11,115)	Early Years Block	(17,371)	0	(17,371)	(17,371)	0
(1,009)	(992)	(973)	Central School Services Block	(961)	0	(961)	(961)	0
(22,601)	(24,983)	(26,892)	High Needs Block	(27,942)	0	(27,942)	(27,942)	0
<b>(103,737)</b>	<b>(109,014)</b>	<b>(115,985)</b>	<b>Total DSG Income</b>	<b>(125,793)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(125,793)</b>	<b>(125,793)</b>	<b>0</b>
	(53)		In-year adjustments					
<b>(103,737)</b>	<b>(109,067)</b>	<b>(115,985)</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(125,793)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(125,793)</b>	<b>(125,793)</b>	<b>0</b>
			<b>In year net deficit/(surplus):</b>					
219	153	65	Schools Block	0	0	0	0	0
65	138	210	Early Years Block	0	0	0	(42)	0
(8)	(25)	(38)	Central School Services Block	0	0	0	13	0
1,227	1,474	4,265	High Needs Block	0	0	0	6,984	0
	(50)	39	Grant adjustment (re PPG)					
<b>1,503</b>	<b>1,689</b>	<b>4,541</b>	<b>Net In-year Deficit</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,955</b>	<b>0</b>
1,461	2,964	4,761	Deficit Balance in reserves	9,450		9,450	9,450	9,450
	108	148	In year reserve movement	0		0	94	94
<b>2,964</b>	<b>4,761</b>	<b>9,450</b>	<b>Cumulative Deficit</b>	<b>9,450</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,450</b>	<b>16,499</b>	<b>9,544</b>

5.6 The Quarter One forecast shows an in-year forecast deficit of £6.96m, against the in-year efficiency target. When added to the cumulative deficit of £9.45m, the forecast year end deficit on the DSG is £16.5m.

5.7 In the Schools Block, the de-delegation for Ethnic Minority & Traveller Achievement Service is currently reviewing their staffing establishment and offer to schools. There could be a £50k underspend in year which will be off-set against future years costs.

5.8 The Early Years Block has some savings against the service manager post of £42k. With new funding streams in 24/25 it is difficult to forecast accurately so early in the year.

5.9 Central Schools Services Block is showing a slight pressure due to a change in Capita recharges. It is hoped there will be other savings in different cost centres to balance this later in the year.

5.10 The High Needs Block is currently showing a £900k underspend at Quarter One. However, we have had some issues with the top up system for maintained and academy Schools which has meant a delay in the forecast for these areas.

5.11 The table below shows the forecast position for the end of 2024/25 by block. The surplus balance on the Schools Block of £996k is supporting the forecast overspend position on the other blocks.

Reserve Balances (surplus)/deficit	1.4.2024 Actual	Change in reserves	In-year Deficit/ (Surplus)	31.3.2025 Forecast
Schools Block - growth fund	(817)	0	0	(817)
Schools Block De-delegated	(176)	94	0	(82)
Schools Block - other	(97)	0	0	(97)
Early Years Block	1,261	0	(42)	1,219
Central School Services Block	1	0	13	13
High Needs Block	9,336	0	6,984	16,320
Grant changes	(58)	0	0	(58)
<b>Total Deficit Balance</b>	<b>9,450</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>6,955</b>	<b>16,499</b>

## 6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The total forecast deficit on the DSG amounts to £16.5m, comprising £9.45m from previous years and a further £6.96m forecast overspend in year. The forecast position will be kept under review and updates provided to Schools' Forum.

## 7. Appendices

- 7.1 Appendix A – DSG 2024-25 Budget Monitoring Report Month 3

## Dedicated School's Grant (DSG) 2024/2025 Budget Monitoring Month Three

Cost Centre	Description	Original Budget 2024/25	Net Virements in year	Amended Budget 2024/25	Forecast	Variance	Comments
90020	Primary Schools (excluding nursery funding)	57,339,140		57,339,140	57,339,140	0	
DSG top slice	Academy Schools Primary	0		0	0	0	
90025	Secondary Schools (excluding 6th form funding)	21,226,730		21,226,730	21,226,730	0	
DSG top slice	Academy Schools Secondary	0		0	0	0	
90230	DD - Schools in Financial Difficulty (primary schools)	0		0	0	0	
90113	DD - Trade Union Costs	61,690		61,690	61,690	0	
90255	DD - Support to Ethnic minority & bilingual Learners	195,100		195,100	195,100	0	
90349	DD - Behaviour Support Services	243,430		243,430	243,430	0	
90424	DD - CLEAPSS	3,480		3,480	3,480	0	
90470	DD - School Improvement	318,730		318,730	318,730	0	
90423	DD - Statutory & Regulatory Duties	128,030		128,030	128,030	0	
90235	School Contingency - Growth Fund/Falling Rolls Fund	0		0	0	0	
90054	De-delegated funding from reserves	-94,020		-94,020	-94,020	0	
	SSR	95,420		95,420	95,420	0	
	<b>Schools Block Total</b>	<b>79,517,730</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>79,517,730</b>	<b>79,517,730</b>	<b>0</b>	
90583	National Copyright Licences	179,860		179,860	179,860	0	
90019	Servicing of Schools Forum	46,250		46,250	46,250	0	
90743	School Admissions	186,210		186,210	191,710	5,500	
90354	ESG - Education Welfare	179,900		179,900	179,900	0	
90460	ESG - Statutory & Regulatory Duties	271,250		271,250	283,690	12,440	
90054	Surplus budget to off-set cumulative deficit	5,420		5,420	0	-5,420	
	SSR	92,425		92,425	92,425	0	
	<b>Central School Services Block DSG</b>	<b>961,315</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>961,315</b>	<b>973,835</b>	<b>12,520</b>	
90010	Early Years Funding - Nursery Schools	1,140,380		1,140,380	1,140,380	0	
90037	Early Years Funding - Maintained Schools	2,278,300		2,278,300	2,278,300	0	
90036	Early Years Funding - PVI Sector	7,218,660		7,218,660	7,218,660	0	
90052	Early Years PPG & Deprivation Funding	219,580		219,580	219,580	0	
90053	Disability Access Fund	90,090		90,090	90,090	0	
90018	2 year old funding	3,646,040		3,646,040	3,646,040	0	
90023	Under 2's	1,886,860		1,886,860	1,886,860	0	
90017	Central Expenditure on Children under 5	414,060		414,060	371,740	-42,320	
90287	Pre School Teacher Counselling	68,610		68,610	68,610	0	
90238	Early Years Inclusion Fund	108,000		108,000	108,000	0	
90054	Early Years adjustment re grant funding	218,295		218,295	218,295	0	
	SSR	82,458		82,458	82,458	0	
	<b>Early Years Block Total</b>	<b>17,371,333</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17,371,333</b>	<b>17,329,013</b>	<b>-42,320</b>	

## Dedicated School's Grant (DSG) 2024/2025 Budget Monitoring Month Three

Cost Centre	Description	Original Budget 2024/25	Net Virements in year	Amended Budget 2024/25	Forecast	Variance	Comments
90026	Academy Schools RU Top Ups	1,259,560		1,259,560	1,259,560	0	
90539	Special Schools - Top Up Funding	6,218,340		6,218,340	6,218,340	0	
90548	Non WBC Special Schools - Top Up Funding	215,290		215,290	254,470	39,180	
90554	Non WBC free schools	618,120		618,120	622,600	4,480	
90556	SEMH provision at Theale	1,450,880		1,450,880	1,457,638	6,758	
90575	Non LEA Special School (OofA)	1,423,550		1,423,550	1,057,940	-365,610	
90579	Independent Special School Place & Top Up	7,389,410		7,389,410	7,141,010	-248,400	
90580	Further Education Colleges Top Up	1,465,000		1,465,000	1,244,510	-220,490	
90617	Resourced Units top up Funding maintained	1,095,930		1,095,930	1,095,930	0	
90618	Non WBC Resourced Units - Top Up Funding	105,640		105,640	108,140	2,500	
90621	Mainstream - Top Up Funding maintained	1,821,000		1,821,000	1,821,000	0	
90622	Mainstream - Top Up Funding Academies	1,142,500		1,142,500	1,142,500	0	
90624	Non WBC Mainstream - Top Up Funding	140,380		140,380	161,820	21,440	
90625	Pupil Referral Units - Top Up Funding	1,139,400		1,139,400	1,139,400	0	
90627	Disproportionate No: of HN Pupils NEW	150,000		150,000	180,000	30,000	
90628	EHCP PRU Placement	1,045,800		1,045,800	1,045,800	0	
	<b>High Needs Block: Top Up Funding Total</b>	<b>26,680,800</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26,680,800</b>	<b>25,950,658</b>	<b>-730,142</b>	
90320	Pupil Referral Units	660,000		660,000	660,000	0	
90540	Special Schools	2,860,000		2,860,000	2,860,000	0	
90546	Special Schools - Place Funding Post 16	790,000		790,000	790,000	0	
90551	Mainstream Maintained - post 16 SEN places	36,000		36,000	36,000	0	
90552	Special Schools and PRU Teachers Pay and Pension	332,520		332,520	332,520	0	
90584	Resourced Units - Place Funding	242,000		242,000	234,000	-8,000	
	<b>High Needs Block: Place Funding Total</b>	<b>4,920,520</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,920,520</b>	<b>4,912,520</b>	<b>-8,000</b>	
90240	Applied Behaviour Analysis	270,420		270,420	284,090	13,670	
90280	Special Needs Support Team	363,830		363,830	363,830	0	
90281	SEND Strategy (DSG)	69,230		69,230	69,230	0	
90282	Medical Home Tuition	381,690		381,690	346,690	-35,000	
90237	High Needs Contingency	240,500		240,500	240,500	0	
90286	Early Years Speech & Language	0		0	0	0	
90287	Pre School Teacher Counselling	97,140		97,140	97,140	0	
90288	Elective Home Education Monitoring	49,480		49,480	49,480	0	

## Dedicated School's Grant (DSG) 2024/2025 Budget Monitoring Month Three

Cost Centre	Description	Original Budget 2024/25	Net Virements in year	Amended Budget 2024/25	Forecast	Variance	Comments
90290	Sensory Impairment	296,460		296,460	276,460	-20,000	
90295	Therapy Services	526,080		526,080	526,080	0	
90372	Therapeutic Thinking	69,330		69,330	69,330	0	
90373	Emotional Based School Avoiders (EBSA)	139,240		139,240	139,240	0	
90374	SEMH Practitioner	43,560		43,560	43,560	0	
90555	LAL funding	171,840		171,840	171,840	0	
90565	Equipment For SEN Pupils	15,000		15,000	15,000	0	
90577	SEN Commissioned Provision	650,830		650,830	665,830	15,000	
90582	PRU Outreach	61,200		61,200	61,200	0	
90585	HN Outreach Special Schools	50,000		50,000	50,000	0	
90610	Hospital Tuition	36,180		36,180	36,180	0	
90830	ASD Teachers	301,490		301,490	301,490	0	
90961	Vulnerable Children	179,400		179,400	179,400	0	
90581	Dingleys Promise	35,000		35,000	77,000	42,000	
	<b>High Needs Block: Non Top Up or Place Funding</b>	<b>4,047,900</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,047,900</b>	<b>4,063,570</b>	<b>15,670</b>	
90054	Efficiency Target	-7,880,605		-7,880,605	0	7,880,605	
	SSR	173,697		173,697		-173,697	
	<b>High Needs Block Total</b>	<b>27,942,312</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27,942,312</b>	<b>34,926,748</b>	<b>6,984,436</b>	
	<b>TOTAL DSG EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>125,792,690</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>125,792,690</b>	<b>132,747,326</b>	<b>6,954,636</b>	
90030	DSG Grant Account	-125,792,690		-125,792,690	-125,792,690	0	
	<b>Net In-year Deficit</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,954,636</b>	<b>6,954,636</b>	
	<b>Deficit Balance brought forward</b>	<b>9,450,120</b>		<b>9,450,120</b>	<b>9,450,125</b>	<b>5</b>	
	<b>In year reserve movement</b>				<b>94,020</b>	<b>94,020</b>	Funding from reserves for de-delegations
	<b>Cumulative Deficit</b>	<b>9,450,120</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,450,120</b>	<b>16,498,781</b>	<b>7,048,661</b>	

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