

**SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM**  
**8<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

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**High Needs Block 2016-17**  
**(Directorate of Wellbeing)**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To consult with the Schools' Forum on the proposed use of the High Needs Block budget for 2016-17.

**1.1 Background**

The rationale underpinning the allocation of budgets for the High Needs Block (HNB) for 2016-17 has not changed from last year. In addition no changes have been made to the centrally retained items.

There has been an increase in the HNB from the centrally retained section of the School Block. This was previously agreed by the School Forum in January 2016. This additional budget has been allocated for "top up" funding within the HNB.

The High Needs Budget for 2016-17 is £21.595m. This is made up of the DfE contribution of £20.906m, the Council's contribution to PFI of £309k and an additional £380k from the Schools' block budget

Please see Appendix A for a breakdown of the allocation and the Council's centrally retained items. Appendix B shows a detailed analysis of the centrally retained items which are managed by Cambridge Education.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Schools' Forum reviews the High Needs Block and gives a view on the budget allocation for 2016-17

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The DfE requires an annual consultation between the Local Authority and the Schools' Forum on the High Needs block budget. The local

authority is complying with its statutory duty to consult with the Schools' Forum to obtain their views.

#### **4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

4.1 Not applicable.

#### **5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

5.1 The High Needs Block is one of three blocks within the Dedicated Schools Grant.

#### **6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

##### Monitoring Officer

6.1 The relevant legal provisions are contained within the main body of this report.

##### Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Resources

6.2 The financial implications of the report are outlined in the supporting information.

##### Access Implications

6.3 There are no access implications.

#### **7 CONSULTATION**

Not Applicable

##### Contact for further information

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**APPENDIX A**

<b>Dedicated Schools Grant: High Needs Block 2016-17</b>	
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Special Schools	8,670
Independent Schools	800
Resource and Special Units	3,431
Alternative Provision / PRU	724
Mainstream Schools	1,138
Contingency for growth	552
	<b>15,315</b>
<b><u>CENTRALLY RETAINED ITEMS</u></b>	
<b><u>Slough Borough Council</u></b> (The Council expects that the Trust will assume greater responsibility for this in the near future)	
Allocated to Arbour Vale school for speech and language.	252
Provides direct educational support for looked after children.	107
Mainstream support for pupils with sensory needs in schools.	470
Education Other Than At School at Haybrook Provision	131
Littledown Behavioural support	164
SEN support - Assessments, administration, finance, etc	237
	<b>1,361</b>
<b>Cambridge Education</b> - Centrally retained - See Appendix B	<b>1,073</b>
Non Controllable	149
Recoupment for Academies (includes Special school places, hospital places, resource bases)	3,698
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>21,596</b>
DSG 2016-17 Allocation in High needs block	20,906
Various (See Below)	<b>690</b>
	<b>21,596</b>
<b><u>Breakdown of the additional funding</u></b>	
Council contribution to Special School PFI	310
Agreed SF Sept 15 from School Bloc - 15-16	190
Agreed SF Jan 16 from DSG - 16-17	190
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>690</b>

**APPENDIX B**

<b>DSG-High Needs Block 2016-17</b>			
<b>Funding held by Cambridge Education (for passing to schools and delivering services to settings for children)</b>			
<b>Budget Code/Title</b>	<b>2015-16 Budget £</b>	<b>Description of the budget</b>	<b>Budget Manager</b>
<b>Support for Inclusion</b>			
M166 Hard to Place Protocol	267,000	This is funding allocated to schools to support entry into school of those hard to place. This is a very useful arrangement to secure placements which are sustainable. The secondary Fair Access Protocol is currently under review with the primary to follow. This Protocol determines how funding is allocated to schools.	Tony Browne
M430 Vulnerable Children	61,700	Support for vulnerable groups (attendance, school refusers, teenage pregnancy, teenage parents, gypsies, travellers and Roma, young people with medical needs, young carers, weaknesses with social and emotional competencies, developmental and learning difficulties) and assisting with closing the gap between their achievement and that of their peers. Funding is available within the Integrated Support Service and School Services and Access for this purpose. This funding contributes to staffing costs across the team with a clear remit of focusing time and resources on these areas.	Tony Browne and Christine Edden
F191 Early Years Inclusion	70,000	Funding for Advisory Teachers to cover early years private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sectors in identification, assessment, intervention, prevention support and advice.	Rachel Cartwright
F321 and F235 Access to Education	42,600	This funding is predominantly for the School Access Officer who arranges education for hard to place and excluded pupils, including travellers, Roma, non-attenders, school refusers etc The Access Officer seeks to avoid the breakdown of pupil places in school, and acting as a broker to re-engage pupils at the same school or facilitate managed moves to other schools of parental preference. This funding also includes the monitoring and assessment of home education which is a statutory requirement, currently shared across the Attendance Team with commissioned support from a school.	Tony Browne

<b>SEN Support Services</b>			
M410 Support for children with autism	185,730	This funding covers the cost of team members to provide outreach information, advice, guidance, support and training to all Slough schools supporting the inclusion of children and young people with autism as indicated in the service level agreement.	Christine Edden
M460 Support for children with special educational needs	399,300	<p>To fund SEN specialist teachers and early years specialist support workers. This area is undergoing changes at the moment as it moves towards providing a consultant model of support and challenge to address educational standards and closing the achievement gap.</p> <p>M461 (62,300) is to provide support for children with learning difficulties and disabilities through the Children's Centres provision, including family support.</p> <p>M462 (118,000) is support, advice and training through the early years advisory service for children with learning difficulties and disabilities. These team members are engaged with assessment provision and also do home visiting.</p> <p>M460 (218,200) is support, advice and training for schools through advisory teachers. (This area of work is undergoing a period of transition from direct assessment and support for pupils in schools to a model which places greater emphasis on a strategic approach to SEND in schools. This will result in a reduction in the assessment of pupils and direct support, alongside an increase in strategic work around: identification, assessment, (early) intervention; advice; preventative work; professional development and training; systemic work: considering the profile, organisation and structure of SEND within the school; schools fulfilling statutory requirements around SEND, accessibility and equality issues; the place and status of SEND within the Senior Leadership Team; supporting governors understanding of SEND and fulfilling responsibilities around appropriate reporting on the school's website and reporting to parents; SEND developments within the school; and the inclusive culture, environment and practice.)</p>	Christine Edden/ Rachel Cartwright
<b>SEN Transport</b>			
M413 SEN Transport	46,340	To provide transport mainly for under 5s with substantial SEN to access specialist provision from an early stage of development. This is to give children a high quality early start in receiving special help to reduce greater difficulties during their development and a reduction in later costs.	Tony Browne

**1,072,670**