

Schools Forum HNB update

Key Message

The Forum is asked to:

- note the SEND delivery programme update
- note High Needs Block outturn
- note High Need Block predicted spend for 2023/24
- agree the areas of work taking place for the coming period

1. SEND delivery programme update

Significant progress has been made over the last financial year to put in place basic systems to ensure financial decision making is sound and transactions are accurate and reflect the specialist provision commissioned. Provision leads now have oversight for independent, special, unit and mainstream provision and for children who are electively home educated, without a school placement and/or receiving home tuition, in receipt of a personal budget. Alongside these roles, placement and monitoring processes are now established to ensure tighter control of the financial budget, value for money and appropriateness of the provision for meeting need. Accurate and up to date records are now established for attendance, off-site provision, placement costs, EHCP annual reviews and phase transfers. Monitoring visits have been introduced where issues have been identified in relation to attendance and funding. In the spring term 4 visits were carried out in the independent sector and 3 planned with the special school sector for the summer term. A school-to-school model for supporting and challenging specialist unit provision is under development. The first review is taking place later in the summer term.

The local authority recognises the lack of investment in earlier, preventative support and provision in its mainstream schools. To this end the team have made progress in establishing SENDCO networks – with the fifth roll out and feedback from 75% of those attending valuing the half termly meetings grading them as very good/excellent. The locality networks for families were introduced this year, with an uptake of 74 families who rated the events as excellent/very good, valuing the opportunity to meet their local team.

The investment in the development of special outreach services for cognition and learning, communication and interaction, social and emotional, mental health difficulties is beginning to embed and once fully established will form a significant part of the graduated approach, supporting children to access their local school whilst identifying children with more complex needs. This quarter, the requests for assessment have stabilised and were slightly down from the quarter last year. Of the 282 requests for assessment, 165 were agreed and 99 refused. Overtime,

the number of requests and actual assessments undertaken are expected to reduce, enabling the much-needed EPS and advisory teams to support local schools in meeting the needs of the children and young people.

This term, work is taking place to develop secondary special school outreach support for cognition and learning and communication and interaction. Discussions are also in progress with Rowan Gate to extend the teacher-led advisory support for the early years sector. The special educational needs IF plus guidance and information for the new funding has been distributed to the early years sector and the information shared through early years forums during May.

A small-scale pilot project to repurpose funding for individual school commissioned OT/SALT support to a locality and SENCO led model is taking place and the findings reported at the end of the summer term to consider wider development.

Mainstream top up funding for children with an EHCP/Send support plan has increased, with 1.5 million investment. Whilst the approach has been welcomed by schools, the time taken to apply and for the specialist team to undertake visits for the allocation and monitoring of resources is onerous both on school and officer time. Work has been taking place to develop and pilot formula funding for a small group of trusts/schools.

Work has continued to develop 95 mainstream unit placements as part of a phased programme to provide additional specialist provision across the four localities. Three primary and one secondary school units are due to open in 2023, providing 40 additional places from September 2023. Service Level Agreements for commissioned services for units are being finalized between schools and service.

Planning for the opening of four satellite classes for Rowen gate is underway for September at Stanton Cross providing 50 additional placements and work underway for the longer-term placement of additional satellite provision.

£500,000k of funding recouped following the introduction of new processes independent special school placements.

Significant work has taken place to finalise the permanent structure and job descriptions for the EHCP team. A planned programme is now in place to phase out the interim team by October. Consultation and ongoing recruitment is taking place as part of the planned programme, which is expected to be completed in October 2023.

2. HNB out turn 2022/23

	Budget 2022/23	Outturn Postion 2022/23	Variance
SENDIF Plus (Transfer to Early Years Block)	500,000	500,000.00	0.00
NNC Special School Place Funding	10,995,833	11,231,998.00	236,164.67
NNC Special School Top Ups	12,680,225	13,934,639.00	1,254,414.00
NNC Special School Top Up Protection	719,403	719,403.00	0.00
NNC Special School TPG&TPECG	725,659	725,659.00	-0.27
NNC SEN Units Occupied Place Funding	1,308,000	1,169,000.00	-139,000.00
NNC SEN Units Vacant place Funding	170,000	181,666.67	11,666.67
NNC SEN Units TopUps	3,025,939	1,280,346.00	-1,745,592.86
AP Free Schools Place Funding	190,000	210,833.00	20,833.00
AP Free Schools TPG&TPECG	12,539	-	-12,538.86
Post 16 Top Ups in FE Colleges	2,810,380	1,757,970.26	-1,052,409.27
Hospital Education Services	200,000	-	-200,000.00
Non Maintained & Independent SEN Unit Top Up & other funding	150,000	140,645.74	-9,354.26
Out of County Special Topups	725,000	2,200,160.34	1,475,160.34
Non Maintained & Independent Special Top Up & Other Funding	7,315,359	9,753,303.85	2,437,945.19
Non Maintained & Independent Mainstream Top Up & Other Funding	300,000	397,514.35	97,514.35
Out of County Mainstream Top Ups	545,500	144,695.88	-400,804.12
Out of County AP Top Ups	£181,546	-	-181,546.00
Primary and secondary Panel	1,000,000	190,489.00	-809,511.00
Mainstream Top Ups	4,597,869	7,059,661.91	2,461,792.46
Alternative Provision	3,757,171	2,345,683.07	-1,411,487.86
Educational Entitlement Team	268,416	268,416.00	0.00
Specialist Support Service	374,979	374,979.24	0.00
MASH	14,415	14,415.00	0.00
NPPS (Northamptonshire Parent Partnership Service)	9,791	9,790.58	0.00
Sensory Impairment Provision	970,685	915,071.64	-55,613.15
Block Transfer From Schools Block	- 1,274,381	- 1,274,380.81	0.00
Block Transfer From CSSB	- 268,573	- 268,573.00	0.00
Import Export adjustment	364,967	364,967.00	0.00
Total High Needs Block	52,370,722	54,348,354.72	1,977,633.03

The final outturn position for 2022-23 is a overspend of £1.978 million. This overspend is a result of the identification of increased budget pressures around High Needs Block. As previously reported, work has been ongoing to clarify historic and existing commitments and ensure resources are being used as effectively as possible. This has produced a level of savings, through greater clarity around commissioning of places for example, but also pressures, on areas such a jointly funded places with Heath and NCT. In addition, significant work has been undertaken to address a backlog of work and agree payment schedules with schools. This has increased pressure on the Top Ups budget as funding to schools has increased to reflect needs. There is now a fuller understanding of the pressures that are acting on the HNB which will inform future budget monitoring and setting processes.

3. HNB projected spending 2023/24

3.1 Independent

Independent Special

	Pupils In Initial Budget	New Placements	Current Placement No	23/24 Budget	Projected Expenditure	Variance	Notes
Day	155	25	170	£9,368,853.00	£10,315,306.89	-£946,453.89	20 of new placements are pre Sept 23 start / previously unknown placements. £110k additional expenditure relates to 21/22 & 22/23 not accrued for as unknown. Some saving due to 3 children being identified as LAC to another LA.
Residential	0	13	13	£0	£786,604.52	-£786,604.52	Education share of residential placements not included in original budget figures
TOTAL	157	38	183	£9,368,853.00	£11,101,911.41	£1,733,058.41	

Independent Mainstream

Pupils In Initial Budget	New Placements	Current Placement No	23/24 Budget	Projected Expenditure	Variance	Notes
21	0	19	£440,707.00	£353,265.99	£87,441.01	2 leavers since budget + 1 Summer leaver

Non-Maintained Special

Pupils In Initial Budget	New Placements	Current Placement No	23/24 Budget	Projected Expenditure	Variance	Notes
4	0	3	£190,430.00	£103,634.96	£86,795.04	1 leaver since budget + 1 Summer leaver

3.2 Special

School	22/23 Place No's	23/24 Place No's	23/24 Place Funding	23/24 Top Up Funding (Inc TPG & TPEG)	Total 23/24 Draft Budget (inc 3%)	Out of Area Children
Chelveston Road	29	91	£764,167	£754,738	£1,518,905	8
Friars	141	154	£1,525,000	£1,684,068	£3,209,068	5
Isebrook	254	254	£2,510,833	£2,629,095	£5,139,928	6
Kingsley	162	156	£1,560,000	£1,841,484	£3,401,484	2
Maplefields	114	114	£1,152,500	£1,476,585	£2,629,085	25
Red Kite	141	144	£1,355,833	£2,038,534	£3,394,367	2
Rowan Gate	232	264	£2,456,667	£3,067,077	£5,523,744	5
Wren Spinney	79	88	£845,833	£1,578,917	£2,424,750	9
3.4% Additional Grant					£852,804	
TOTAL	1,152	1,265	£12,170,833	£15,070,497	£28,094,135	62

3.3 Unit

School Name	2023/24 Commissioned Place No's - April	2023/24 £6k Place Funding (Element 2)	2023/24 £10k Place Funding (Element 2)	Total Top Up Funding	2023/24 Total Place + Top Up
Beanfield Primary	54	£327,500	£0	£278,040	£605,540
Corby Business Academy	77	£449,500	£20,833	£468,680	£939,013
Croyland Primary	8	£0	£0	£80,000	£80,000
Denfield Park Primary	14	£84,000	£0	£44,075	£128,075
Kingswood Secondary	13	£78,000	£5,833	£39,000	£122,833
Mawsley Primary	0	£42,000	£0	£77,000	£119,000

Park Junior	7	0	£0	£135,000	£135,000
Stanton Cross Primary	0	£28,000	£0	£25,333	£53,333
Studfall Infant	12	£93,000	£0	£111,515	£204,515
Studfall Junior	24	£130,500	£22,500	£88,836	£241,836
Thrapston Primary	0	£42,000	£0	£60,000	£102,000
Wollaston Secondary	0	£42,000	£35,000	£46,667	£123,667
Woodnewton	10	£35,000	£41,667	£23,333	£100,000
Total	219	£1,351,500	£125,833	£1,477,479	£2,954,812

3.4 Out of Area

	Pupils from Initial Budget	New Placements	Current Pupil No	23/24 Budget	Projected Expenditure	Variance	Notes
Mainstream	34	18	42	£313,062.00	£449,202.30	£136,140.30	Initial budget included 10 leavers - actual new placements at additional cost = 8
Special	101	25	111	£1,620,986.00	£1,474,904.07	£146,081.93	Initial budget included 15 leavers - actual new placements at additional cost = 10. 21 Summer Leavers
TOTAL	135	43	153	£1,934,048.00	£1,924,106.37	£9,941.63	

3.5 mainstream top up

Primary Need Allocations	Cognition & Learning	Communication & Interaction	SEMH	Sensory & Medical	Without PN Code	Total
% Allocation	22.43%	48.26%	20.51%	8.80%		100.00%
Budget:	£1,637,653	£3,523,547	£1,497,471	£642,503		£7,301,174
Current Allocations:						
Primary Academy	£625,004	£1,764,917	£465,026	£139,680	£7,337	£3,001,965
Primary Maintained	£201,607	£581,451	£166,986	£80,926	£0	£1,030,971
Secondary Academy	£555,692	£553,696	£602,438	£323,251	£9,139	£2,044,216
Secondary Maintained	£39,530	£16,913	£17,485	£1,258	£0	£75,186
Total Allocated to Date:	£1,421,833	£2,916,978	£1,251,935	£545,115	£16,476	£6,152,337

Infant / Primary Phase Transfers to be Allocated:	£53,145	£89,737	£42,981	£14,230	£6,970	£207,063
Budget To Be Allocated:	£162,675	£516,832	£202,555	£83,158		£941,774

3.6 Current overall position statement for projected spend for the HNB 2023/24

Budget	23/24 Budget	23/24 Forecast	Variance
Early Years	£250,000	£250,000	£0
Mainstream Top Up's	£7,301,174	£7,801,174	£500,000
Mainstream SEN Units	£2,809,355	£2,954,812	£145,457
Special Schools	£28,469,277	£28,094,135	(£375,142)
Out of Area	£1,934,048	£1,924,106	(£9,942)
Independent	£9,999,990	£10,772,208	£772,218
Alternative Provision (inc out of county)	£2,650,000	£2,650,000	£0
Post 16 Top Up's in FE Colleges	£1,953,207	£1,953,207	£0
Hospital Education Services	£100,000	£100,000	£0
Education Entitlement Team	£543,416	£543,416	£0
Specialist Support Services	£649,979	£649,979	£0
AP Free Schools	£190,000	£190,000	£0
Northamptonshire Parent Partnership Service	£30,000	£30,000	£0
Sensory Impairment Provision	£970,685	£970,685	£0
Tri-part Residential Placements	£0	£731,994	£731,994
Transfer from DSG Reserve	£0	(£1,764,585)	(£1,764,585)
TOTAL	£57,851,131	£57,851,131	£0

4. Key areas of work for the coming period

- To further embed the SEND whole school support and provision set out in the SEND delivery programme
- To continue the planned programme of satellite and unit provision set out in the SEND delivery programme

Key areas of work for consideration for the coming period

- To work with the special school sector to undertake a review of the special school funding model and descriptors for the allocation of placement funding
- To pilot mainstream funding formula for mainstream top up funding

