

SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM
5th July 2018

Directorate of Children, Learning and Skills

Annual DSG Report 2017-18

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report sets out the actual deployment of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in 2017-18. It explains the main variances, and reports on the amounts to be carried forward into 2018-19.

The analysis focuses on the three blocks within the DSG;

- Early Years Block (EYB)
- High Needs Block (HNB)
- Schools' Block (SB)

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Schools' Forum is asked to note the report.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3.1 It is obligatory to provide Schools' Forum with the annual financial position for each block.

4 REPORT

4.1 The DSG is a ring-fenced grant and can only be applied to meet expenditure properly included in the Schools' Budget as defined in the Schools Finance Regulations.

The majority of funding is delegated to schools, using the national formula factors, but applying local rates. A large proportion of the grant is recouped by the DfE to fund Academy schools within the authority's jurisdiction. The remainder is used to fund Early Years and High Needs provisions, and central functions.

4.2 Year End Position – Summary 2017/18

Table 1 summarises the overall year end position for each DSG block for 2017/18. The in-year overspend on the DSG is **£3.221m**, and the cumulative overspend is now **£4.696m**. Any end of year balances must be rolled forward into the next financial year.

TABLE 1

Block	Budget	Outturn	Variance	Brought Forward Balances	Total (surplus)/ Deficit
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Early Years Block	14,495	13,677	-818	0	-818
High Needs Block	18,316	22,355	4,040	1,474	5,514
Schools Block	35,774	35,773	-1	0	-1
Total DSG	68,584	71,805	3,221	1,474	4,696
Grants (Pupil Premium etc)	5,335	5,335	0	0	0
Total	73,919	77,140	3,221	1,474	4,696

4.3. Early Years Block

4.3.1 The final funding position on the Early Years Block is not confirmed by the DfE until late June/July as the budget is updated based on the January census each year. The DfE recouped **£0.320m** from the 2017/18 budget in relation to 2016/17. It is anticipated that similarly, there will be an impact on the 2018/19 budget.

4.3.2 Table 2 below sets out the 2017-18 Early Years DSG revenue budget and outturn position, which shows an underspend of **£0.818m**.

TABLE 2

Early Years Block	Budget 2017/18	Final Outturn 2017/18	Variance to Budget
Income			
DSG Settlement	-14,494,509	-14,494,509	0
Income Total	-14,494,509	-14,494,509	0
Expenditure			
Funding to MNS	3,116,830	3,116,830	0
Funding to Primary Schools	1,573,217	1,573,217	0
Funding to Academies	2,149,159	2,149,159	0
PVI	3,221,810	3,296,054	74,244
2 Yr Old Funding	1,734,353	1,734,353	0
Working Parent Entitlement	583,632	570,424	-13,208
EYPP	82,010	82,010	-0
Nursery Growth	1,058,181	328,293	-729,888
Disability Access Fund	43,050	0	-43,050
Subtotal	13,562,242	12,850,341	-711,902
Central Budgets			
Early Years Adaptations/ Practical Support	142,234	36,120	-106,114
Early Years Strategic & Financial support	80,599	80,000	-599
Early Year Extended Entitlement	91,207	91,200	-7
EY Behaviour Support Services (Littledown Behavioural Support)	38,944	41,394	2,450
EY Trade Union Duties	1,356	0	-1,356
Central Early Years Expenditure	125,232	125,250	18
Early Years Team Contribution	452,696	452,691	-4
Subtotal	932,267	826,655	-105,612
Expenditure Total	14,494,509	13,676,996	-817,513
Early Years Block Total	-0	-817,513	-817,513

4.3.3 The Early Years funding is demand led, with providers claiming funding for actual hours of provision at the hourly rate set by the authority for that particular financial year. The original funding allocation for the EYB is based on five twelfths of the January 2017 census and seven twelfths of the January 2018 census, and expenditure is based on actual take up achieved during the financial year.

4.3.4 There will be variances between funding and expenditure because the funding is always an estimate of the potential activity for Early Years users and the demand is not uniform over the year. Both expenditure and funding is therefore variable and challenging to predict. The outturn included in this report reflects the best information available. When the DfE confirms the final 2017/18 settlement an adjustment may be made which will affect the brought forward balance. Any changes will be reported to Schools' Forum at a later date.

4.3.5 The current forecast, before any adjustment to funding is **£0.818m**, which is a favourable movement of **£0.098m** over the amount reported at the January 2018 Schools' Forum. This change is a result of fewer children accessing services than previously predicted.

4.3.6 A full review of the main variances follows;

- **PVI Sector** – overspend of **£0.074m** due to demand over and above funding levels.
- **Working Parent Entitlement and Nursery Growth** – underspend of (**£0.743m**) this is due to the uptake on the newly introduced extended entitlement. Nationally and locally, first term uptake has been slower than anticipated which the Government have recognised. The Early Years service is anticipating a spike of demand in the upcoming terms, which the carry forward will support.
- **Disability Access Fund** – underspend by (**£0.043m**). This has not been used in 2017/18. As a new level of funding, the early years' sector has been alerted to its use and application process. It is unclear at this time if the DfE will recoup these funds, but this has been set aside until this is confirmed.
- **Early Years Adaptations** – – underspend by (**£0.106m**) this is a new area of funding and the take up has been slower than expected. This has however been rolled forward into 2018/19, as it is anticipated that this will be fully utilised to support children in order to access their universal and extended entitlements across Slough.

4.3.6 Early Years Block Impact Assessment – **See Appendix A**

4.4 High Needs Block

4.4.1 The DSG 2017-18 High Needs Block final outturn shows an in-year overspend of **£4.040m** and a cumulative overspend of **£5.514m**.

Income

4.4.2 The council had a total of **£18.315m** to spend on pupils qualifying for high needs services in the 2017/18 financial year. This includes contributions from the Schools block (**£0.300m**) and the General Fund (**£0.310m**).

4.4.3 At the start of the year the HNB had a deficit of **£0.481m**, this was presented to Schools' Forum in February 2017. This increased by approximately £0.190m in November 2017 when the DSG allocations were updated. Therefore the total shortfall in budgeted resources for the HNB against the commitments estimated at the start of the year was **£0.671m**.

Expenditure

4.4.4 The total amount spent in 2017/18 on DSG funded HNB services is **£22.355m**. When the balance from 2016/17 is added the cumulative total expenditure at the end of the year is **£23.830m**.

4.4.5 Of the £22.355m, **£0.800m** relates to expenditure that should have been charged to 2016/17.

Reasons for the Overspend

4.4.6 A full account of the reasons for the **£5.514m** overspend is given below

- **£1.474m** carried forward from 2016/17
- **£0.671m** budget shortfall at the start of the year
- **£0.800m** expenditure that should have been charged to 2016/17
- **£1.686m** more than budgeted on out of borough payments
- **£0.638m** top up placements in out of borough independent schools
- **£0.579m** more on centrally retained budgets
- **£0.314m** maintained schools place funding adjustments/top ups
- **£0.151m** alternative provision

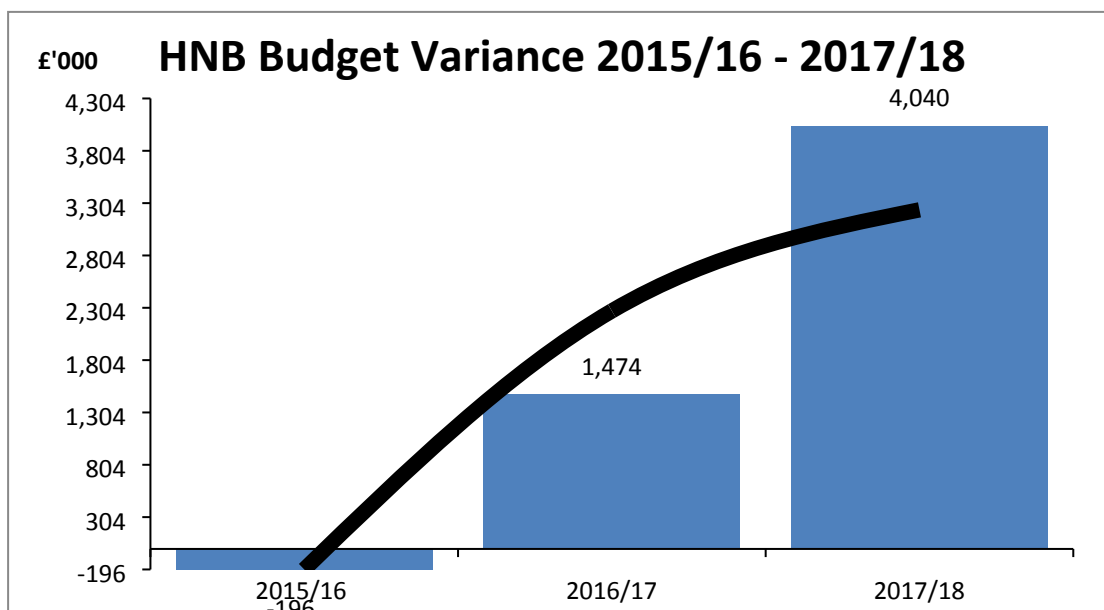
4.4.7 The final table showing detailing the expenditure on the HNB budget for 2017/18 is shown below:

High Needs Block Final Outturn 2017/18			
Details	Budget	Outturn	Variance
Income			
High Needs DSG	-17,706,100	-17,706,100	0
Schools Budget DSG	-300,000	-300,000	0
Council Contribution (PFI)	-309,542	-309,542	0
INCOME TOTAL	-18,315,642	-18,315,642	0
Expenditure			
High Needs Funding Maintained Schools	13,666,567	13,980,634	314,067
Alternative Provision	659,000	810,000	151,000
Independent Special Schools	800,000	1,438,865	638,865
Post 16	132,240	671,729	539,489
Out-borough	652,950	1,799,227	1,146,277
Sub-Total High Needs Funded	15,910,757	18,700,456	2,789,699
Autism	185,730	163,830	-21,900
Hard to Place Pupils	267,000	597,332	330,332
Sensory Impairment	721,770	925,487	203,717
Strategy for SEN & Inclusion	182,000	182,000	0
High Needs Inclusion	1,076,910	1,143,429	66,519
Sub-Total Centrally Retained	2,433,410	3,012,077	578,667
PFI Contribution (HNB)	183,890	183,890	0
PFI Contribution (Council)	309,542	309,542	0
Non-Controllables	149,491	149,491	0
Budget Deficit	-671,448	0	671,448
Sub-Total Other	-28,525	642,923	671,448
Add carry forward from 16.17		1,474,204	1,474,204
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	18,315,642	23,829,660	5,514,018
FINAL OUTTURN	0	5,514,018	5,514,018

Year on Year Analysis

4.4.8 The graph and table below demonstrate the end of year trend for the past three years. The bar graph shows the accounting outturn for each year and line graph shows the corrected position with expenditure falling in the year it is incurred. The corrected position (i.e. the line graph) shows that although the budget variance continues to rise, the deficit is not as stark as the bar graph suggests.

DETAILS	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Accounting Position	-196	1,474	4,040
Corrected Position	-196	2,274	3,240



Out of Borough Payments

4.4.9 This budget has overspent consistently over the past 2 years, mainly as a result of the historically inadequate budget. The pattern of expenditure over the past 2 years is shown in the table below.

2017/18	Out-borough & Post 16	Independent	TOTAL
Budget	785,190	800,000	1,585,190
Outturn	2,470,956	1,438,865	3,909,822
Variance	1,685,766	638,865	2,324,632

2016/17	Out-borough & Post 16	Independent	TOTAL
Budget	652,950	800,000	1,452,950
Outturn	1,524,502	1,264,847	2,789,349
Variance	871,552	464,847	1,336,399

In 2017/18 payments for out of borough placements were paid for 41 pupils in Independent Special Schools, 79 post 16 pupils and 173 pupils in other local authority schools.

4.4.10 The HNB Centrally retained budget overspent by **£0.579m** in 2017/18. The main reasons for this is the SALT contract which was not paid in 16/17 and therefore two years amounts were paid in 2017/18. The other main overspending area is Hard to Place which overspent by **£0.330m**. This is due to additional pupils supported in the year.

4.4.11 A full list of the 2017/18 Centrally Retained budget outturn is shown below.

Cost Centre		Budget	Outturn	Variance
F460	SEND Financial Support	55,000	54,506	-494
F461	SEN - Assessment Capacity	182,000	182,000	0
F191	Early Years Inclusion	70,000	70,493	493
F166	Hard to Place Pupils	267,000	597,332	330,332
F233	Exclusions and Access to Education	31,700	48,608	16,908
F235	Home Education	42,600	43,800	1,200
F413	0-5 SEN Transport	46,340	46,340	0
F430	Vulnerable Children Management Incl.	30,000	30,000	0
F410	Autism Outreach Team	185,730	163,830	-21,900
F691	EY SEN Advisory Teachers/Support Workers in EY Settings	118,100	118,200	100
F692	EY SEN advisory Teachers/Support Workers in Children's Centres	63,000	63,000	0
F465	SENCO Network	100,000	85,000	-15,000
F463	SEND Teacher Advisor	118,200	114,977	-3,223
F416	Sensory Impairment	470,000	471,023	1,023
F417	SALT	251,770	454,464	202,694
F446	Education Resource Services (Formerly LACES)	106,700	173,235	66,535
F418	Haybrook Provision	130,990	130,990	0
F406	Primary Provision Behaviour	164,280	164,280	0
TOTAL		2,433,410	3,012,078	578,668

4.4.12 HNB Impact Assessment – See Appendix B

4.5 ACTIONS TO ADDRESS THE HNB BUDGET PRESSURES

4.5.1 The information below presents School Forum members with an understanding as to how Slough Borough Council intends to reduce the deficit within the High Needs Block over the next three years

- **Review of internal processes and procedures** – complete overhaul of internal processes and systems for SEN clients. Ensuring a standardised process for approval and robust system for capturing and recording commitments.
- **Early Years Inclusion Funding** – explore and secure additional Early Years Inclusion Funding (EYIF) for HNB clients.

- **Post 16** – reviewing this provision to ensure the budget is fit for purpose, transition arrangements are adequate and deliver appropriate outcomes.
- **Review of commissioned SEN places within Resource Bases** – taking steps via the Resource Base Group to make to get a better fit of resource base places to the agreed commissioning strategy.
- **Out of Borough Independent Providers** – taking action to review the current provision with the intention of transitioning these students back into Slough, where appropriate

4.5.2 These are explained in further detail in **Appendix D**.

4.5.3 Further work is being done to quantify the savings that may result from these initiatives and a further report will be presented to Schools' Forum once this work has progressed.

4.6 Schools Block

4.6.1 The Schools Block of the DSG has a final outturn position of **£1,310**, which is very close to a breakeven position. This is broadly in line with the reported forecast at the January 2018 Schools' Forum.

4.6.2 The final outturn is shown in the table below:

TABLE 4

Schools Block	Budget 2017/18	Final Outturn 2017/18	Variance to Budget
Income			
Full DSG Settlement	-123,790,818	-123,790,818	0
Academy Recoupment	88,017,116	88,017,116	0
DSG Budget Share net of recoupment	-35,773,702	-35,773,702	0
Pupil Premium	-2,053,965	-2,053,965	0
Sixth Form Funding	-2,076,875	-2,076,875	0
UIFSM	-992,628	-992,628	0
Y7 Catch-Up Grant	-30,000	-30,000	0
PE & Sports Grant	-181,673	-181,673	0
Income Total	-41,108,843	-41,108,843	0
Expenditure			
Maintained Primary Budget Shares (Net of De-del)	25,858,201	25,858,201	0
Maintained Secondary Budget Shares (net of De-Del)	7,381,228	7,381,228	0
De-Delegated: Education Functions	45,090	45,090	0
De-Delegated: Behavioural Services (Littledown)	225,638	225,638	0
Growth Fund	1,437,290	1,437,290	0
General Fund PFI affordability Gap	-500,000	-500,000	0
Copyright Licenses	118,375	118,375	0
DSG Total	34,565,823	34,565,823	0
Pupil Premium	2,053,965	2,053,965	0
Sixth Form Funding	2,076,875	2,076,875	0
UIFSM	992,628	992,628	0
Y7 Catch-Up Grant	30,000	30,000	0
PE & Sports Grant	181,673	181,673	0
Grants Total	5,335,141	5,335,141	0
Central: Asset Management (Former ESG Duties)	12,800	12,800	0
Central: Statutory and Regulatory Services (Former ESG Duties)	258,400	258,400	0
Central: Education Welfare Service (Former ESG Duties)	144,700	144,550	-150
Central: Monitoring National Curriculum (Former ESG Duties)	4,100	4,100	0
Central: Virtual Head	100,000	100,000	0
Central: School Forum Service	53,055	53,055	0
Central: Admissions (DSG)	178,180	178,192	12
Central: School Improvement Support	314,900	313,592	-1,308
Central: Education SI Raising Standards	47,500	47,626	126
Central: LA Safeguarding Board	30,000	30,000	0
Subtotal Central Budgets	1,143,635	1,142,315	-1,320
Expenditure Total	41,044,599	41,043,279	-1,320
Non-Controllables	64,245	64,245	0
Schools Block Total	0	-1,320	-1,320

4.6.3 The council received, after academy recoupment, **£35.773m** to fund its maintained schools, growth fund and central expenditure. £33.239m (net of de-delegation) of this allocation was passed directly to schools, as approved in the 2017/18 budget setting process.

4.6.4 In addition to the **£35.773m**, the Council also receives various support grants which it passes directly to those schools who should receive them. All grants have been fully passed to those schools, as shown in the table above.

4.6.5 Schools' Balances

A list of the actual balances carried forward by maintained schools is listed in table 5 below. This shows 1 school is severely in deficit, and two schools with very low balances.

4.6.6 Schools with low balances or who are in deficit will receive special attention over the coming year so that the local authority is satisfied that robust plans are in place to ensure that the school is in good financial health. The schools will be required to submit a three year budget plan as well as a recovery plan.

TABLE 5

School	2017/18	2016/17	Movement	Notes
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
A	-364	-88	-276	School in deficit
B	3	-36	39	Low balances
C	29	107	-78	Accounts closed on Qtr 3 estimates
D	45	58	-13	Accounts closed on Qtr 3 estimates
E	46	25	21	
F	108	70	38	
G	136	198	-62	
H	155	189	-34	
I	164	-42	206	
J	215	240	-25	
K	218	327	-109	
L	220	138	82	
M	231	94	138	
N	241	91	150	
O	728	946	-218	
P	743	658	86	
Q	1,145	993	151	
R	1,763	1,217	547	
Total	5,829	5,185	644	

4.6.7 Impact Analysis – Schools' Block Centrally Retained – please see **Appendix C**

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

Not Applicable

Method of Consultation

Not Applicable

Representations Received

Not applicable.

Contacts for further information

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APPENDIX A – EARLY YEARS IMPACT ASSESSMENT

AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	IMPACT
142,234	Work with providers to address the needs of children with lower level or emerging SEN; e.g. Providers can apply for grants to purchase equipment, training or other support needs to include children with SEND in their settings and remove barriers to access	3 settings have benefitted from an inclusion grant. As a new initiative the early years service continues to work with providers to develop their applications for this funding.
80,599	Financial contribution for the budget overview / management by DCS, Service Lead and Strategic Finance Officer.	
91,207	Specific advice and guidance provided to the EY sector (schools, PVI's inc childminders) with regard to the separate and distinct requirements for the management of applications and place delivery for the extended entitlement. Administratively there is some additional processing required in order for the extended entitlement to be paid. Childcare Sufficiency Assessment refresh to enable future place planning.	Autumn 2017 participation rate was 69% and Spring 2018 participation rate was 73%. Two capital projects were started in 2017 and have completion dates of Summer 2018, they will provide an additional 135 places for 30 hours childcare in areas where the most recent childcare sufficiency assessment has highlighted the greatest need. The early years service ran 5 briefing sessions and 4 workshops between 2017 - 2018 for the sector regarding the extended entitlement, a number of 1:1 sessions were also conducted with schools and the PVI sector to look at their business sustainability with the introduction of the extended entitlement. We have seen a 21% rise in the number of childminders approved to offer FEL in Slough.
38,944	Payment to Littledown School for a range of behaviour support services for children in specific schools across the borough. E.g. provision of training for practitioners	The SEBDOS contract enables providers to draw in expert advice in relation to managing children's behaviour. The take up of this service is low and could be remodelled to explore paying for an as and when service rather than an annual contract which would dramatically reduce the contract value.
1,356	Budget for this year only - not to be added to budget 18-19	
125,232	Support the development of quality provision through advice, challenge and training; e.g.: mentor and validate Bristol Standards quality improvement programme; prepare Focussed Improvement Partnership Plans (FIPP) for settings with an Ofsted Requires Improvement or Inadequate; Promote and develop the ITalk programme to support best practice in developing children's communication skills	Good Level of Development (GLD) 2017: 70.7 % of children in England achieved a GLD, 71.2 % of children in Slough achieved a GLD. Slough's GLD has improved each year since 2013 when it was 49.9. In 2017 Slough's GLD places it 4th in comparison with its statistical neighbours (11 in table)

APPENDIX A – EARLY YEARS IMPACT ASSESSMENT - continued

AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	IMPACT
336,865	There are a number of administrative and development roles that combine to enable SBC to meet its statutory responsibilities regarding: safeguarding; the securement of free entitlement places including pass through of funding to providers; the promotion of partnership working including flexibility of provision; and information advice and training. For further details see the Provider Agreement 2017.	We have 100% of PVI sector offering 3 & 4 year old FEL (universal and extended entitlement), 85% of the PVI sector are offering FEL for 2 year olds. All 5 maintained Nursery schools are offering FEL for 3& 4 yr. olds (universal and extended) and 4 of 5 are offering FEL for 2 year olds. 5 schools with nursery classes are offering FEL for 2 yr. olds. 60% of childminders are now approved to offer FEL compared to 39% in 2016 - 2017.
115,382	Facilitation of all aspects of Funded Early Learning for 2 year olds, ensuring all checks take place and payments made appropriately. Ensuring all parents have access to the appropriate 2 year funding including brokerage	Since the introduction of the extended entitlement more providers are choosing to offer more places to 3 & 4 year olds both universal and extended entitlement as it is more financially viable. Current numbers of 2 year olds in FEL places has dropped and will be a focus of the service in the autumn term.
931,818		

APPENDIX B – HIGH NEEDS BLOCK CENTRALLY RETAINED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	IMPACT
54,506	SEND Financial Support	This has been used to provide a Category Manager to support SEND High Needs Block funding. This role has been intrinsic to understanding previous years expenditure and to support the budget monitoring of the High Needs Block. This has now resulted in a clear and accurate understanding of budget pressures within the HNB. The SEND Category Manager has also worked to support the Service Lead with Banding working groups and has supported Special Schools with finance led queries. Moving forward, this role is now evolving to support the Service Lead in understanding how the HNB can be brought back within budget.
182,000	SEN - Assessment Capacity	This was used to support the SEND team with assessments. This post has helped support the service reduce the number of conversions from Statements of Special Educational Needs to Education, Health and Care Plans from over 700 since September 2017, to under 30 outstanding conversions.
70,493	Early Years Inclusion	
597,332	Hard to Place Pupils	This funding has been allocated to schools and EBC to provide education for hard to place pupils following the Fair Access Protocol. Funding has been used to provide places at the college due to a shortage of year 10 and year 11 places in Slough schools. The number of college funded places will reduce from September 2018 as the number of school places increases.
48,608	Exclusions and Access to Education	This has funded the School Access Officer who has arranged education for hard to place and excluded pupils during 17/18.
43,800	Home Education	This has funded Littledown School to arrange visits to families who are home educating to ensure education is being provided and provide reports on visits so that the LA can decide on the next steps.
46,340	0-5 SEN Transport	This has been used to provide transport for under five's pupils who are eligible for transport following a successful appeal
30,000	Vulnerable Children Management Incl.	This has been used to contribute to the funding of the Attendance Service so that they can provide some support to vulnerable groups
163,830	Autism Outreach Team	This funding has been used to support children and young people in Slough who have received, or are awaiting, a diagnosis of ASD. This has included Early Bird and Early Bird Plus programmes delivered every term for the parents of young people with a new diagnosis. Our Teacher Advisors and EY outreach worker provide advisory visits, training sessions and evidence-based interventions in schools and other education/childcare settings. Our Early Years Outreach Worker is also a member of the FTH multi-agency group, part of the team who assess and diagnose children under 5 who present with possible ASD.
85,000	Autism Outreach Team	

APPENDIX B – HIGH NEEDS BLOCK CENTRALLY RETAINED IMPACT ASSESSMENT - continued

AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	IMPACT
118,200	EY SEN Advisory Teachers/Support Workers in EY Settings	This funding has facilitated work with providers to address the needs of children with lower level or emerging SEND. Providers have accessed funding through the Panel in order to purchase equipment, access specific training or other support which has in turn removed some of the barriers to access for children with SEND. As a new initiative the early years service continues to work with providers to develop their applications for this funding.
63,000	EY SEN advisory Teachers/Support Workers in Children's Centres	This funding has enabled children with SEND, currently not in an early years provision, to access the EYFS through the home visiting service in order to facilitate the take up of a place with the relevant support.
114,977	SENCO Network	This funding has been utilised to recruit an Education and Standards Effectiveness Officer (ESEO) for SEND. Deborah Bowers, ESEO SEND commenced in her role in January 2018 and since then has led a number of SENDCo network events to support EY, Primary, Secondary and Post 16 SENDCos. Deborah has also been instrumental in supporting schools with SEND related queries and has supported the process of providing information into SEND panel for statutory assessment of needs.
471,023	SEND Teacher Advisor	This funding has been used to support children and young people in Slough with SEND needs including SpLD, global developmental delay, learning delay and Down Syndrome; this has been provided through work in schools and other education settings including individual assessment, advisory visits, training sessions and evidence-based intervention work.
454,464	Sensory Impairment	These have been utilised to support children and young people in Slough with Hearing Impairments, Visual Impairments and Speech and Language support. SALT has been provided by locum staff this year to deliver both assessments and intervention. This will be provided by a new service in time for September 2018.
173,235	SALT	
130,990	Education Resource Services (Formerly LACES)	
164,280	Haybrook Provision	This funding supported the provision of services provided by Apollo based at Haybrook College. This funding ceases at the of the 2017/18 financial year.
3,012,078		

APPENDIX C – SCHOOLS BLOCK CENTRALLY RETAINED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	IMPACT
53,055	School Forum Budget to support the work of Schools Forum, such as use of a consultant, Financial support, and research and various ad-hoc meetings as required.	Supported the costs of meeting venues, Task and Finish groups throughout the year, salary of the clerk and expenses for the Chair for time spent on support over and above the function of Chair. The budget supports the smooth function of the Schools Forum which is compliant with current regulations and good practice.
100,000	Virtual School promotes the educational achievement of all the children looked after by the local authority	See report to Schools Forum March 2018
178,180	School Admissions	Salary budget for the local authority school admissions team
47,500	Education, School Improvement and Raising Standards leadership, management, business and administrative support with on costs from April 2017 to 30th September 2017 then this will be funded from Education support grant.	Has supported the functions of the above.
30,000	Local Authority Safeguarding Children Board: Schools' contribution to the Board and additional activity to improve school safeguarding provision. Accountable to the SCSB Education Subgroup.	The LSCB threshold document is now published online. It can be accessed via this link https://www.sloughsafeguardingboards.org.uk/lscb . A series of seminars has been arranged these can be seen on the Website.

AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	IMPACT
314,863	<p>School Improvement Support in line with published SI strategy and Schools Causing Concern policy. (improvement and standards: early support, monitoring, challenge and intervention) commitment and from April 2017 to 30th September 2017. This includes prior agreement to support the Teaching school alliance until September 2017. Then these services will be funded from the Education support grant.</p>	<p>Local School Improvement Fund - £49,500 was transferred to the Slough Teaching School Alliance for the local school improvement fund to facilitate the school led improvement system in partnership with the council. Impact to date is covered below.</p> <p>Senior Education Liaison Officer – Has worked in partnership with Slough Teaching School Alliance and overseen the local school improvement fund process. To date over £80,000 has been accessed by 80% of schools in the LA. The senior education liaison officer also ensures follow up with schools to discuss impact and ensure value for money for all projects In addition the local school improvement fund has seen a great collaboration amongst a range of schools. One project involves the coming together of 11 primary schools working in partnership.</p> <p>Senior Standards and Effectiveness Officer (primary) – Has provided primary expertise for schools in the local authority and has led and contributed to Autumn Term Visits, overseeing the QA process. Has also done follow up visits to schools and provided additional specialist support to schools that have requested it. The SSEO has also facilitated network meetings such as curriculum and maths groups for the primary phase. In addition has worked with the Slough Teaching School Alliance on recruitment.</p> <p>Senior Standards and Effectiveness Officer (secondary) - Has provided secondary expertise for schools in the local authority and has led and completed all Autumn Term Visits, as well as follow up visits throughout the year. The SSEO has provided specialist support for schools and provided intensive support to a school in order to navigate a positive Ofsted outcome. Senior leaders network in process of being set up.</p> <p>Education Safeguarding Officer – Provided support for schools where the council has received complaints via Ofsted. Instigated a safeguarding newsletter. Chairs Designated Safeguarding Lead Networks for primary and secondary phase. Organised safeguarding seminar for school leaders. Completed and collated section 175 audits for all schools.</p>
723,000		

APPENDIX D

ACTIONS TO ADDRESS THE HNB BUDGET PRESSURES

1 The information below presents School Forum members with an understanding as to how Slough Borough Council intends to reduce the deficit within the High Needs Block over the next three years

1.1 **Review of internal processes and procedures.**

The significantly high amount of expenditure that was not recorded in 2016/17 was in part due to a lack of internal processes in place, including; a lack of rigour on SEND Panel decisions and the lack of standardised approach when recording placement and placement value. Both issues have been addressed and internal colleagues and external partners are aware that all decisions regarding changes to finances for CYP with SEND must go through SEND Panel. This has now ensured that information is recorded in one central place and most importantly, the decisions that are being made are equitable and transparent.

The financial recording of placements for all CYP is now an intrinsic part of SEND Officers' caseload. SEND Officers now ensure that Placement Notification Forms are produced and established within pupil folders. This will mitigate from unknown invoice amounts being attributed to CYP.

1.2 **Early Years Inclusion Funding**

Early Years Inclusion Funding (EYIF) is additional funding that local authorities provide to Early Year settings to support settings during the process of statutory assessment for Education, Health and Care Plan.

Although there was £70,000 attributed to 'Early Years Inclusion' in the HNB, this was not funding used to support children with additional needs, rather to support staffing costs.

Prior to September 2017, there was no specified limit to the funding that Early Years settings could draw down from the local authority. This often resulted in:

- Early Years settings not assessing children in a timely manner
- Primary settings having to process the assessment once children transitioned into their setting

Since September 2017, Early Years settings have been provided clear guidance as to how they are to access this funding. EYIF is now provided for up-to 22 weeks x 15 hours per week x £14 per hour, which equates to up-to £4,620 per child during the assessment process.

Had this framework been established April 2017, there would be an identified amount of £166,320 expenditure against EYIF, based on the children accessing EYIF in the financial year.

As there was no set budget against EYIF, these costs were coded against 'Out of Borough'.

Moving forward, we anticipate that there will be a similar level of EYIF expenditure for 2018-19 and are currently exploring where this funding should be derived from, including the possibility of this being funded from the Early Years Block.

1.3 Post 16

The budget set for Post 16 in 17-18 was **£132,240**. As of June 2018, there are currently 124 students accessing Post 16 provision including 96 students studying in-borough (Windsor Forest Group, formally East Berkshire College). This total number also represents students accessing independent college places.

124 students accessing post 16 provision clearly demonstrates that the previous budget was not set at an appropriate level.

The original budget did not factor in the growing number of CYP that would be entitled to education up to the age of 25 due to the SEND reforms of 2014.

The table below outlines the % of CYP that are accessing education

	Total post 16 with EHCP	17-18	19+
#	124	47	77
%	100%	38%	62%

In order to address the high amount of expenditure against Post 16, Slough Borough Council acknowledges that it must:

- Develop transition arrangements to ensure that there is appropriate provision for CYP with EHCPs post 16, which are aligned with the 'Preparing for Adulthood' agenda. This forms part of the SEND strategy and a focus on improving outcomes for CYP post 16 which will in turn mitigate a high % of 19+ students in Further Education, with a greater focus on securing positive outcomes such as employment through apprenticeships and supported internships.
- Acknowledge that there are two typical cohorts that access Further Education;

- i) Students that are from specialist provision (i.e. Arbour Vale School) that will transition into FE from 19 and will typically study on a discrete Supported Studies/ Foundation course
 - ii) Students from mainstream secondary settings that have Education, Health and Care Plans that access L1/2/3 vocational courses within the FE Sector
- For the first cohort of learners, Slough Borough Council will ensure that Post 16 settings are delivering appropriate outcomes for those CYP. Service Lead, SEND will be meeting with Post 16 providers in Summer 2018 to discuss what SBC consider as appropriate outcomes and timescales.

This will reduce the number of students who are accessing a carousel of similar level courses between the age of 19-25.

- Part of this strategy will be to explore how other Local Authorities are using frameworks to support FE providers in ensuring that HNB funding is being used appropriately.
- One possibility is to adopt a '2 year core +' framework which provides FE Colleges two years top-up funding for those students with EHCPs who require High Needs Funding. FE Colleges would then need to apply for a third year based on a framework demonstrating that the individual is being provided with an extension to their education which cannot be met in another type of setting.

1.4 Review of commissioned SEN places within Resource Bases

There are currently 17 Resource Bases in Slough (3 Early Years, 9 Primary and 5 Secondary). Officers are working with Resource Bases to ensure that there are quality assurance measures in place for those CYP accessing commissioned places. Each commissioned place equates to £10,000.

Through the work of the Resource Base working group, there has been an acknowledgment that a number of Resource Bases have not had a high percentage of students accessing their commissioned places. Where this is the case, officers are proposing that commissioned places are reduced for some settings to ensure that there is not an under utilisation of places.

There have been instances where some Resource Bases have utilised only 25% of their commissioned places, which has resulted in a £60,000 loss to the local authority.

Conversely, SBC have increased commissioned places for other Resource Bases due to parental preference and physical resource within some providers. This issue is highlighted in the table below:

	17/18 Commissioned places	Students Accessing	Notes
Resource Base A	8	2	6 x £10k under utilised from original place funding (=£60k)
Resource Base B	30	39	Additional 9x£10k places needed (=£90k)

Agreed actions include:

- A Resource Base event for parents/carers to articulate each Resource Base's offer
- Clearer information about the needs that Resource Bases can meet on the Local Offer website (co-produced template with parents/carers)
- New contracts in place with providers that clearly state performance measures and admission criteria
- Reviewing the number of commissioned places Resource Bases offer where there is under utilisation
- An agreement that no further increase to commissioned places will take place until the actions above are actioned

1.5 **Out of Borough Independent Providers**

There are currently 38 students that are accessing Out of Borough Independent provision, with 18 students who started in September 2017. The high number of starters in September 2017 is attributed to Arbour Vale School stating that they couldn't meet the needs of a number of these individuals during the consultation process in early 2017.

At that time, there was a lack of leadership from SEND to challenge these decisions, which resulted in a significant increase of placement for the start of the academic year 2017-18.

Officers are working closely with the students accessing independent provision and are attending Annual Reviews to review the current provision with the intention of transitioning these students back into Slough, where appropriate.

Officers are also working with Arbour Vale School and prospective new sponsors Orchard Hill Academy Trust to ensure that Arbour Vale School are able to meet complex needs as a Specialist all-through provision.

It is important to note that there will be a small majority of students that will remain accessing independent provision as the complexity in need is such that local provision cannot meet their needs.

