








Derby City Council


School Forum
30 January 2024
4.30pm – 6pm
Via Teams

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| Present | | | |
| | Paula Baines-Chambers | Primary Academy | |
| | Jenny Brown | Derby Cathedral School | |
| | Sharon Buckby | DCC, CYP | |
| | Nicole Caley | Secondary Head | |
| | Cheryl Fearn | Union Rep Observer | |
| | Helen Fearn | Central Head | |
| | Adey Greaves | School Business Manager | |
| | Stephen Grundy | Governor Rep | |
| | Janice Hadfield | DCC, Finance | |
| | Wendy Hardy | Union Rep | |
| | Sabrina Hobbs (Chair) | Secondary Head | |
| | Paula Nightingale | DCC, Peoples Services | |
| | Karen Phillips | Governor Rep | |
| | Janet Bowlzer | DCC, Finance | |
| Apologies | | Scott McGregor, Andy Smith, Mike Pride, Cllr John Whitby | |
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| 1 | Minutes of the last meeting | | |
| | JH confirmed an email had been sent to all primary and secondary maintained schools for their responses for the proposal of re-pooling budget paper and responses received were in agreement and these proposals have gone ahead. The minutes were taken as an accurate record of the meeting. | |  23 12 06 SF final minutes.docx |
| 2 | Quarter 3 budget monitoring (DSG forecast Dec 23) | | |
| | This report asks for the school forum to consider three recommendations:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note the forecast outturn position for 23/24 at qtr 3 is projecting an in-year deficit of £9.338m To note the implications for the 23/34 DSG reserves in section 4.0 which is predicting a cumulative DSG deficit position of £13.781m. A variation of £0.983m from £14.764 at Qtr 2. To note the requirement of the Deficit Management recovery Plan in section 5.0 3.1 sets out the DSG allocations for the current financial year for the 4 funding blocks. | |  2024 Jan DSG forecast Dec 23.docx |

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| | <p>3.2 sets out the high needs block deficit budget for 23/24 of £12.225m. This included a contingency for growth and demand of £5.514m. The High needs deficit is reporting £9.185m at Qtr 3 signalling that the extent of the contingency required is lower than expected.</p> <p>Section 2 of the report sets out details of the deficit plan in development with schools which is a 3 year plan which includes targets, a banding system and funding framework, feedback will be brought back from the working groups that have been set up to the School Forum at the next meeting in June.</p> <p>SB is speaking to special school heads, CEO MAT Trusts, PSG and SSG engaging with as many people as possible. This is not to create but to build on strategic alliance. Need to make place based system to continue to grow stronger and collaborate to meet the needs earlier so CYP are in right school to meet their needs, and also to support their continued development in order to move forward.</p> <p>There are series of meeting being held over the next month or two with the intention to present outcomes and feedback at the June school forum to move forward towards financial envelope but continuing journey of inclusion.</p> <p>3.3 Within Derby, the demand for Education and Health Care assessments remains high, with an average of 61 new requests each month (an increase from 40 in 2022/23). Currently, the team is processing 426 open EHC needs assessments, of these, 189 are more than 20 weeks old. 328 new EHC plans have been issued since April 2023, an increase of 93 plans on the same period last year.</p> <p>The table clearly shows the demand for assessments, the new requests peaked in Oct 2023, however dropped in November but is significantly higher than previous years.</p> <p>3.4 – 3.7 Further variances but not massive changes from this.</p> <p>3.9 The schools block is currently reporting an overspend of £0.134m due to increase in rates, the central block is reporting a small overspend of £0.019m. Early Years is reporting a balanced position.</p> <p>Section 4 - DSG Reserves – the DSG deficit balance brought forward from 22/23 remains at £4.443m, with the in-year forecast deficit of £9.338m this brings the overall DSG deficit to £13.781m.</p> <p>Section 5 – Deficit Management Recovery Plan is a requirement of the DSG that local authorities have a plan in place to manage their overspend on the DSG, this was agreed at Derby City Council's cabinet meeting in June 2023.</p> <p>The SEND Strategy through its transformational workstreams will impact on delivering a sustainable system with better outcomes and</p> | | |
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| | <p>increased parental confidence, and without the plans Derby's unmitigated deficit would be significantly higher. This is in the context of a national SEND system that is under unprecedented pressure with the overspend on the high needs block forecast to hit the £3bn mark by the end of the financial year.</p> <p>Tribunals were discussed, timeliness not being very effective and don't have clear smart outcomes in annual reviews. Work needs to be carried out with parents/carers and showcasing work in schools. Part of the working group with schools and parents/carers to change narrative, once this work has been carried out hopefully will reduce numbers going to tribunals.</p> <p>PN – percentage not good enough, need to offer the best placement in a timely way. At the moment the increase is around 15% increase of new EHCP's from 620 – 720. Needs more strength in decision making through stakeholder panels.</p> <p>SB – looking at banding review to provide a form of action plus funding to meet needs earlier. Need to build confidence with parents.</p> <p>PH – need to turn the curve to ensure more children stay in the City in mainstream schools with support.</p> <p>SB – children's needs differ a lot across the catchment areas, comparable offer in the city and look at statistical neighbours, not there yet. Placements for CYP have been secured in mainstream schools with an element of funding.</p> <p>SH – areas of need around Health and Social Care, SB confirmed there were conversations with Suanne Lim to link across to the family hubs, and also to work with health colleagues.</p> | | |
| <p>3</p> | <p>Budget Report</p> | | |
| | <p>This report presented to the School Forum for budget proposals for the next financial year based on allocations announced by the Department of Education on 19 December 2023.</p> <p>The 24/25 allocation for DSG for Derby is £338.291m which is made up of four blocks of funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools Block £245.966m (included the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant and £1.5m NNDR) • Central School Services Block £2.556m • High Needs Block £58.596m <p>Early Years Block £31.173m (includes adjustment for amended week as per the 11th January 24 announcement)</p> <p>School Forum to note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocations of the DSG as detailed in the report • To top slice £1.299m from the school's block, as per the approved school's forum report | | <p> 2024 Jan Budget Report.docx</p> <p> 2024 Jan School Budget Appendix 1.pdf</p> <p> 2024 Jan School Budget Appendix 2.pdf</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support recommendations to be taken forward and support the rates for Early Years funding • To approve value for the growth fund • To note the distribution model for the targeted grant for special schools and AP £0.792m as required by the DfE. <p>Section 3.1 recaps over the allocation, including mainstream school grants, schools will receive additional grants.</p> <p>An average increase of 3% has been applied to the core factors in the National Funding Formula multiplier, it is not mandatory to replicate these values at a local level, however School Forum principal is to mirror the NFF as near as Derby can.</p> <p>National average increase of 4.77% has been applied to the Minimum funding levels per pupil, set as part of the NFF. For 2024-25 primary schools are at least £4,610 per pupil and secondary school at least £5,995 per pupil. These values are mandatory and must feature at a local level. To note that Derby's average MFL is much higher. Derby reports an average of £5,368 for primary pupil (16% above MFL) and £6,948 for secondary pupil (16% above MFL)</p> <p>3.2 Details of any changes to the funding formula, average of 3% is being applied to all core factors of the national funding formula, principal to mirror the national funding formula in derby. Per pupil funding – looked at report. 16% higher than the minimum funding levels set at a national level.</p> <p>3.3 minimum funding guarantee only applies to 4 schools in Derby, detailed in appendix 2 of the report.</p> <p>A transfer of £1.229m (0.5%) to the High Needs Block. Schools Forum have the powers to approve a transfer of up to 0.5% from the Schools Block to other areas of the DSG. The amount requested for 2024-25 is within the permitted limit.</p> <p>3.4 Appendix 1 shows every school and the increase they have seen in their budgets</p> <p>3.5 summary of the school's block, the change from last year and the current year.</p> <p>3.6 Early Years block, which has increase significantly from current financial year due to changes. Further changes from Sept 25 working parents will be entitled to 30 hours with children under the age of 5. Set out in table 3.7.</p> <p>SB – important to stress we were given the opportunity to top slice 5% but to stay with 3% so we can maximise the flow into providers as much as possible.</p> | | |
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| | <p>3.7 changes for 3 and 4 year olds allocation increase of £1.6m, small increase on 2 year olds, big changes for new funding for working parents with children from 9 months to 23 months of £31m, additional £10m from last year.</p> <p>Nationally the High Needs Block is increasing by 4.3% in 24/25. Derby have significant pressures on high needs budget. Due to mounting pressures there are a number of projects underway to improve the financial position of Derby, whilst maintaining the needs of those supported by the High Needs Block.</p> <p>3.10 identifies the recommended methodology to passport money on, based on the same as last year.</p> <p>3.13 Requirement of Deficit Management Plan to bring budget back in line over the next few years.</p> <p>WH – asked if plans were in place and will they work? SB – Strategies are in place and routed in evidence based practice that has been developed around the Country.</p> <p>Discussions continued and School Forum where happy to accept all the recommendations in the paper.</p> | | |
| 4 | Growth Fund | | |
| | <p>JH goes through the report.</p> <p>This report covers annual review and growth fund. The Growth Fund is to financially support schools which are required to provide extra places to meet basic need within the authority.</p> <p>Recommendations for School Forum to consider:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To maintain the criteria for allocation as detailed within the report until it is superseded by national funding formula directives - To note the increase in primary allocation in 3.4 which align with latest regulations. <p>3.1 sets out the supporting information to why the growth fund is needed.</p> <p>Schools funding is based on a lagged system taken from the pupil count in October. The Account in October supports the funding in April, therefore a further lag.</p> <p>3.2 this sets out the criteria.</p> <p>3.3 How finances are calculated.</p> <p>3.4 this sets out the facts, if planned, proforma tool or full allocation</p> <p>3.5 and 3.6 cover the arrangement of a new school opening.</p> | |  <p>2024 Jan Growth fund.doc</p> |

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| 5 | <p>School Forum Membership Review</p> <p>Every 2 years School Forum membership needs to be reviewed, which gives the opportunity for people to join, or for those who would like to remain, and also to look at Chair/Vice Chair who would like to take up the mantle.</p> <p>The request for membership has been taken to the governors briefing and has been requested in the school forum.</p> <p>At June's Forum we will look at the arrangements and membership to commence from September 2024.</p> | | |
| 6 | <p>Any Other Business</p> <p>None</p> | | |

Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday 4 June 2024, 4.30pm, Teams