



Present	Pauline Anderson	DCC, Peoples Services
	Paula Baines-Chambers	Primary Academy
	Steve Barnard	DfE, Observer
	Janet Bowzler	DCC, Finance
	Chery Fearn	Union Rep observer
	Sabrina Hobbs	Secondary Head
	Wendy Hardy	Union Rep
	Deirdre Malley	Nursery Head
	Scott McGregor	Secondary Head
	Karen Phillips	Governor Rep
	Mike Pride	(Chair) The Kingsmead School
	Cllr John Whitby	Cabinet Member for CYP
Apologies	Andy Smith	
	Janice Hadfield	
	Adey Greaves	
		Who
1	Welcome and Introductions	
2	<p>Minutes of the last meeting</p> <p>WH mentioned Item 5 re: The High Needs deficit sub-group and asked if these will be set up. PMA commented that there is going to be a review of the constitution, part of the governance is to monitor and report on the plan so that will be set up as part of the new governance, more school membership is required.</p> <p>MP commented the landscape is changing and impacting on the School Forum. Proposal to the group suggesting to look at the School Forum membership. It was agreed to include this as an agenda item for the September meeting.</p> <p>WH mentioned she knew a primary maintained head who was interested in becoming a member. Wendy to let Pauline/Mike know who.</p> <p>MP has an AOB around SEND transport proposals.</p> <p>The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.</p>	<p>MP/JH /PMA</p> <p>WH</p>
3	<p>Dedicated Schools Grant Centrally Held Budgets 2022-23 Final Outturn</p> <p>Report sponsor Andy Smith and author Janice Hadfield.</p>	

	<p>PMA went through the headlines of the report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.675 million pound pressure, then further amount over DSG pressures of £4.443m deficit, context in the report. • Point 3.1 the DSG continues to report a deficit to pressures in the High Needs Block. • Point 3.2 demands for EHCP's continues to rise, the greater proportion comes from educational settings and other professionals. Leaving around an average of 30-40% being referrals from parents, carers and young people. Demand comparable table in the report, and is comparable with other local authorities both regionally and across England. • Point 3.3 Out of Authority payments for children year end position was £17.17 on a budget of £17.9m reported a spend of £19.6m, however further analysis at the end of the year reconciled the work undertaken to actually reduced demand with the outturn reflecting this. The graph on the report shows the increased demand and increased costs over the last 3 years. Demand has increased by 17% since 21/22. <p>E3 additional support to mainstream schools reported year end position of £6.4m, this was a pressure of £0.32m against the original budget. On average 693 E3 plans at an average costs annual cost of £9,200, also staffing pressures, reported a pressure of £0.1m on a budget of £1.17m, this is partly due to the unplanned pay award.</p> <p>Looking at underspend in the following areas:- Post 16 provision reported an underspend of £0.3m on a budget of £3m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERS provision reported a year end underspend of £0.17m due to reduced demand for the type of provision. A reduction of 5 places. • Contingencies and efficiencies across the programmes contributing a further £0.11m • One of import and export adjustment for 22-23 0.793m • Point 3.4 PMA commented working with Impower is absolutely essential work and has enabled to put together a high quality DSG Management Plan. This is the final few months of working with Impower, and having an orderly departure, need to be resilient once they have left. Dan Marson has a new enhanced role as Transformation Lead, really positive influence. • Point 3.5 The Schools block underspent by £0.3m due to Growth Fund allocations being lower than forecast 		
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	<p>and de-delegation services year end position being more favourable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point 3.6 The Central Block reported a balanced position. • Point 3.7 The Early Years Block was forecasting a balanced position in Quarter 3 (which included the anticipated clawback of funding totalling £0.4m due to the reduced actual participation. • Point 3.8 The balance for the DSG reserves carried forward to 2022/23 was £0.768m deficit. The in-year deficit for 22/23 of £3.675m leaves a cumulative deficit balance on the DSG reserves of £4.443m. <p>The mitigated forecast deficit for 23/24 as per the DSG management plan is £2.988m leaving a cumulative forecast deficit balance for the end of 23/24 of £7.431m.</p>		
3	<p>Dedicated Schools' Grant (DSG) Management Plan</p> <p>PMA presented this report.</p> <p>School Forum are being asked to approve the DSG Management Plan and to note a maximum mitigated deficit of £9.782m by 2026/2027.</p> <p>This has been worked through over the last 2 years. Only recently has new administration been formed and the report has now been approved and a High Needs sub group will start to meet to support the monitoring and governance. I would say this needs to be at least two weeks before each School Forum meeting.</p> <p>The DSG conditions of grant 2022 to 2023 requires that any local authority with an overall deficit on its DSG account at the end of the financial year or whose DSG surplus has substantially reduced during the year, must be able to present a plan to the DfE for managing their future DSG spend, when requested.</p> <p>The purpose of the management plan as per the DfE guidance is set out in point 4.3.</p> <p>Point 4.5 sets out the National Picture. The government has introduced two national programmes to help councils to address the pressures on the high needs budget. Councils are invited to participate in either programme depending on the level of their budget deficit however derby have not been invited as yet, but would actively welcome being involved. Derby have worked with Lincolnshire to look at comparables between the authorities.</p>		

	<p>There will be an evaluation which will be produced over the Summer.</p> <p>Point 4.9 In 2021/22 the council entered a deficit position on the DSG for the first time as all DSG reserves were exhausted. By the end of 2022/23 it is anticipated that the deficit in the DSG will be £6.928m. The deficit position of the council is one that is reflected nationally. Previous ways in which SEND was managed nationally concealed bow waves of demand, which were exacerbated by Covid. Nationally, Councils are dealing with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased demand for Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCP). 2. Increased complexity of those children within the system resulting in higher cost placements in mainstream settings. 3. Challenge of parental confidence in the ability of mainstream schools to meet the needs of children and young people with EHCPs, meaning a greater pull on special school places. 4. Insufficient local placements in special schools, to meet this increasing demand, leading to the increased use of high-cost independent placements. <p>Point 4.11 The amount of the school age population now have an EHC Plans. These are rising in Derby.</p> <p>Point 4.12 The SEND Placement Sufficiency Strategy was approved by Cabinet on 12 April 2023. PMA commented that collaboration between schools and each other, the council and other partners has been second to none. Building on trust and creativity which there is an abundance of in Derby.</p> <p>Point 5.1 DSG Management Plan, the first phase which is set out in 6 points in the plan.</p> <p>Point 5.2 Second Phase again 5 points in the report however this is planned work not yet taking place as all workstreams place demand on capacity to deliver.</p> <p>Point 6.4 Details the Governance of the DSG Management Plan.</p> <p>PMA remarks that the Appendix to the report gives a more user friendly DSG Plan overview, which is all about delivering better value in the public domain and children living their better life.</p> <p>It includes a Plan Overview, The current position, Pressures on High needs block, Our Plan, What we have already achieved, what we are doing now, including capital</p>		
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	<p>programme, SEND sufficiency, digitization of plans and funding tariffs, and what we are going to do, the impact, where we will be spending in HNB and where our children will be placed.</p> <p>PMA is meeting Steve Barnard and DfE colleagues to discuss the plan next week, and if it is acceptable to the department.</p> <p>SB commented that he was really encouraged about what he has heard today about the plan, however the process of the DfE is to challenge the report.</p> <p>JB commented that there were some technical issues on the financial aspects of the plan which is ongoing within the team however these figures will be transferred to a newer version. SB commented not to worry about this, they will still be able to analyse the figures, and will offer advice when he meets with PMA.</p> <p>The DSG Management Plan has now been approved by cabinet, and a High Needs sub group will now start to meet to support the monitoring and governance, to be set at least two weeks before each School Forum meeting.</p> <p>DSG report updates to become a standing item at the School Forum meeting.</p>	<p>MP/ PMA/ JH/SL</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>MP mentioned the exceptional needs around SEND Transport for the most vulnerable. This cohort is potentially a massive safeguarding risk if allowed to travel independently to school.</p> <p>MP asked if school forum members would be happy for a paper to be brought to Forum, to provide transport and fund staffing for cars to be used, to be signed off by members. This was agreed.</p> <p>MP wanted to say formally, on behalf of the members, thank you to Pauline, as this will be her last School Forum meeting. Pauline thanked the members for all their support and collaboration.</p>		

Date and time of next meeting – to be set