

Schools Forum 20 October 2015

Use of DSG reserves

- School to School Support**
- Support for Two Year Olds**
- Support for Children in Care**

David Scott

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School To School Support

To enable schools to share knowledge, expertise and good practice in raising school attainment. To support schools at risk of or judged to be Inadequate.

Key benefits:

- Coherent and planned package of support delivered by other schools and not dependent on school's ability to pay
- Central funding of backfilling to release leadership team
- Development opportunity for middle and senior Leaders to grow and experience improvement in schools

£227k spent out of £200k.

- Primarily on schools in special measures to support leadership capacity and backfilling from substantive roles

Spending plans

- Support for schools in special measures, those at risk of 'indadequate' judgement, small schools with identified weaknesses.

Recommendation to Schools Forum: to agree transfer of £100k from general reserves

- SF asked for this to be brought back to October meeting



Support for 2 Year Olds

To support the expanding 2 year old free entitlement programme to ensure every eligible two year old child is given the best opportunity to develop and learn.

Key benefits

- Additional placement capacity.
- Support to parents and families.
- Raise quality of childcare.

£45k out of £188k spent to date on:

- Activities to promote take-up of free entitlement.
- Spending plans
 - Impact of change in 2 year old funding arrangements.
 - £33k in each of 2015-16 & 2016-17 for post identifying eligible children.
 - Support for providers c. £50k.
 - Access and quality improvement £25k.
 - Discretionary places for children on edge of eligibility criteria.



Support for Children in Care

To enhance the educational outcomes for children in care and to narrow the achievement gap between these children and their peers .

Key benefits

- Early implementation of strategies impacting on educational progress

£12k out of £100k spent to date, but additional funding for CiC now provided by:

- new formula factor (£1,900)
 - Pupil Premium for CiC (£1,900).
- Spending plans
 - Support for individual pupils as identified in PEPs.
 - Improving outcomes of CiC at KS3, KS4 and KS5.



General & earmarked reserves

2013-14	Opening Balance £000	Year-end Underspend £000	Allocations In £000	Allocations Out £000	Drawn down in year £000	Closing Balance £000
General DSG Reserve	1,456	449		(388)	(500)	1,017
School to School Support	0		200		(15)	185
Support for Two year olds	0	100	88		(31)	157
Support for Children in Care	0		100		(1)	99
Total DSG Reserve	1,456	449	388	(388)	(547)	1,457
2014-15	Opening Balance £000	Year-end Underspend £000	Allocations In £000	Allocations Out £000	Drawn down in year £000	Closing Balance £000
General DSG Reserve	1,017	105			(418)	704
School to School Support	185				(130)	56
Support for Two year olds	157				(14)	143
Support for Children in Care	99				(11)	87
Total DSG Reserve	1,457	105	0	0	(572)	990
2015-16	Opening Balance £000	Year-end Underspend £000	Allocations In £000	Allocations Out £000	Drawn down in year estimated £000	Closing Balance £000
General DSG Reserve	704			(360)		344
School to School Support	56				tbc	56
Support for Two year olds	143				tbc	143
Support for Children in Care	87				tbc	87
Mental health support	0		360		tbc	360
Total DSG Reserve	990	0	360	(360)		990



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Review of Early Help Advisors

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Head of Educational Services



Early Help Social Workers / Advisors 1

Funded from “Combined Services Base Budget”, not DSG reserves. £104k recurring funding, but subject to annual SF approval.

Key benefits

- Direct support to Head Teachers & designated teachers for CP issues
- Identifying and signposting to relevant support services, undertaking pre-CP actions plans.
- Changing the engagement with families and perceptions of social care.
- Rapid response to parents.
- Earlier interventions avoiding escalations to intensive specialist services.
- Provided a clear evidence base that cases reaching Referral and Assessment are appropriate.
- School impact focused.



Early Help Social Workers / Advisors 2

Spending to date

- Three full time posts costing c.£135k but part year effect in 2014/15 carry forward.
- Contribution of £30k from Early Years to support work in Early Years settings where required.
- Ongoing resource required for 3FTEs vs £104K recurring based budget.

Spending Plans

- Continue the programme to get full years of action
- Link with Referral and Assessment Team to maximise links and minimise below threshold referrals in.
- Confirm 2.5 or 3 FTE after pilot completed.

