

High Needs Budget Recovery Plan

Review and Progress Quarter 2 2019

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1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 Provide current financial position
- 1.2 Highlight risks and pressures
- 1.3 Report progress on savings against deficit
- 1.4 Consult on options for development and solutions to current risks
- 1.5 Close off any ongoing queries/actions
- 1.6 Agree schedule for 20/21 budget setting

2 Background

- 2.1 The Refreshed Budget Recovery Plan was last presented to Schools Management Forum 3rd July 2019, showing the steps required to reduce the deficit.
- 2.2 Following closure of accounts for the financial year 18/19 the deficit was at £1.15 million.
- 2.3 This has changed the requirement, and the savings target is now set at £1.15 million.

3 Current picture and performance end of Q2

3.1 Special Educational Needs

- 3.2 We predict a net saving in SEN budgets. The forecast is that there will be a gross saving of £770k against independent schools and Element 3 top-ups, support service contributions due to recruitment delays and in-service efficiency savings as well as the introduction of traded services in SEN for training.

3.3 Alternative Provision

- 3.4 There are forecasted pressures for Alternative Education due to significant demand for Y11 places. RTMAT have a larger cohort in upper school, and this has in turn increased the number of additional places required at other provision for intervention and Permanent Exclusions.
- 3.5 There is also a pressure in recoupment. This is due to 2 things. There has been a high number of credit notes issued that offset any recoupment income. In addition,

we are still chasing outstanding payments from 3 schools. We have been reassured that one school will complete this payments this term, but an ongoing dispute with Outwood Schools around individual pupil charges. A meeting has been set up with the school heads to identify a resolution.

4 Managing pressures

4.1.1 It is evident that the need for expensive placements in independent provision, i.e. alternative education and independent specialist provision is driven by the following:

- Exclusions and intervention becoming necessary due to higher prevalence of Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs that our young people now present with
- Increasingly complex needs in the areas of Autism, Profound and Multiple Learning Disability, Physical Disability and Speech, Language and Communication needs that present.

This is borne out by the increasing number of young people being assessed for EHCP's, the outcome being that local provision is stretched to manage the demand as it increases.

There have been many initiatives to induce efficiency savings in back office and statutory functions, however the challenge now is to determine an intelligence led plan to reshape local provision to meet the demands that are becoming ever more apparent. This will include:

- The inclusion Strategy-a critical factor in identification of need and offering early intervention, as well as ensuring those children who can achieve in mainstream provision get that opportunity
- Development of local provision-increasing capacity for resource bases, the addition of the SEMH free school for SEMH, improving Post-16 pathways and opportunities as well as supporting local specialist provision to manage the increasing complexity at the specialist end of our provision
- Ensuring that the system works effectively for SEN and Vulnerable Learners and the Middlesbrough Offer meets the needs of the majority of those learners
- Robust scrutiny and monitoring of High Needs budgets within the local authority
- Increased transparency of who settings are using High needs funding and that they are supported to get the best value for money, while recognising the increasing pressures of rising costs and static budgets through other funding settlements

5 Outstanding Queries

5.1 Additional High Needs Funding

Spend for 19/20 with a review of plans for the remaining sum

5.2 Early Years

A further request for information was submitted by William Guthrie on 14th October, with the following questions relating to high Needs Funding-

- Q Information** - It is almost 3 months since we had a meeting in Thorntree Hub. On June 18th you gave a welcomed assurance that information will be readily shared and real consultation will happen, at more regular meetings. This was to be supplemented by an update on issues affecting the PVI providers, sent by email. This has not happened.
- A** Arranged a consultation in August which was not successful. However, a second date on 24th October was successful with 10 attendees. Providers have fed back that the process for Inclusion and Development Fund is much improved, with quicker payments that are better for cashflow. Nurseries (both school and PVI's) fed back a range of issues and pressures in relation to SEN and vulnerable children that will be consulted on in more detail with individual settings to help us plan a supportive approach in the very early years. A report will be compiled and presented with the High Needs funding plan for 20/21.
- **Special needs funding.** How many SEND inclusion fund applications are being received and what funding has been allocated so far this year? What is the waiting time average for ASD and other SEND assessment and how many children receive early years education through support at home?
 - Assessment from EYSS brings a response within 2 weeks, and a support plan is drawn up within 4 weeks based on PVI feedback.
 - EHCP statutory assessment is a 20 week process
 - ASD assessments for children in early years (that live in Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland) within 6 months, which is within NICE guidelines.
 - **SEND IDF applications have distributed £81k so far this year.**

6 Appendices



SMF HN Report End
of Q2 201920.pptx