

MIDDLESBROUGH LOCAL AUTHORITY
MEETING OF THE SCHOOLS MANAGEMENT FORUM

16th September 2020

High Needs Funding

Review and Progress 20/21

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1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 Provide current financial position
- 1.1 Highlight risks and pressures

2 Background

- 2.1 The High Needs Budget has been under significant pressure for several years. The current deficit stands at £3,075,040
- 2.2 The 19/20 outturn was £1,191,860. This is because of demand on Alternative Provision (exclusions), hospital teaching, a change in the DfE SSF maintained element 2 funding, special school placements and a high number of Education Health and Care Plans issued that required additional resources.
- 2.3 The targets in the Budget Recovery Plan were not achieved overall in 19/20 financial year. However, there were some areas of improvement that led to some in-year savings:
 - 2.3.1 Reduction in independent school costs
 - 2.3.2 Reduction in exceptional costs for children and young people with SEN
 - 2.3.3 Underspend in pre-16 mainstream matrix claims for children and young people with SEN
 - 2.3.4 Underspend in top-up for Resource Bases
- 2.4 Areas of deficit included:
 - 2.4.1 Alternative Provision
 - 2.4.2 Alternative Provision Recoupment
 - 2.4.3 In-area special school placements (additional places required)

3 Strategic Aims for financial year 20/21

3.1 Special Educational Needs

- 3.1.1 The council have reviewed the availability of special school and resource base provision within Middlesbrough. It is evident that provision is limited while demand is increasing. This would mean the local authority would be

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seeking a high number of independent places in this and future financial years.

3.1.2 To address this in-year, an additional 31 places have been created within Middlesbrough. These are:

- Acklam Grange School-3 places for young people with ASD in a resource base
- Hemlington Hall-8 places for learning needs and ASD a KS1 and KS2
- RTMAT- 4 places nurture group Y7 for children with significant Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs
- Priors Woods-8 places for children with Severe and Profound Learning Disability
- Abbey Hill-8 special school places for secondary children with ASD, based on the Hollis site in Middlesbrough

Without this provision added, it is likely we would have needed to seek Out of Area and independent places for 31 children and young people.

3.1.3 The cost of this provision this year has been an additional £670k. However, independent provision averages £45,000 per pupil each year. Our in-year return on investment therefore is £725,000.

3.1.4 Below is the total 20/21 budget for SEN

INDEPENDENT SPECIAL SCHOOL PLACES	£1,850,000
PRE 16 SEN MATRIX (MAINSTREAM)	£1,250,000
SPEECH AND LANGUAGE	£26,000
HIGH NEEDS RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (NEW PROVISION)	£500,000
SEN ASSESSMENT AND ADVICE SERVICE	£381,400
POST 16 TOP UP MATRIX (FE MAINSTREAM)	£245,000
SPECIAL SCHOOLS TOP UP	£4,800,000
OUT OF AREA SPECIAL SCHOOL AND BASE PLACES	£600,000
SEN BESPOKE PROVISION	£300,000
SEN MANAGEMENT SUPPORT	£113,500
DFE RECOUPMENT (PLACES ACADEMIES)	£4,526,000
MAINTAINED AND TEMPORARY PLACES	£4,338,000
SUPPORTED INTERNSHIPS	£300,000
RESOURCE BASE TOP UP	£1,500,000

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EARLY YEARS SPECIALIST SUPPORT SERV	£335,900
TOTAL	£21,065,800

3.2 Inclusion

- 3.2.1 From September, a new inclusion model has been introduced. A restructure has taken place to create a new integrated Inclusion, Assessment and Review Team. This brings together Inclusion officers with SEN officers to work collaboratively with schools to increase early identification and intervention for young people at risk of exclusion.
- 3.2.2 The model includes collaborative planning with schools, Educational Psychology, Headstart, Inclusion and SEN Officers to identify areas of development in the context of individual schools. This is a radical development to identify students that need support in the earliest stages, when needs are emerging in the hope to prevent Alternative Provision and support becoming a last resort at the point of exclusion, but rather part of a graduated response that meets needs of young people and prevents escalation of needs and issues. Costs for the Inclusion element of provision is below:

PRIMARY AP (HOLMWOOD)	£180,000
EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY TEAM	£193,000
LEARNING COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT PLACES	£140,000
EXTERNAL AP COSTS	£600,000
AP SUPPORT STAFF	£362,100
RTMAT AP ACADEMY	£1,728,000
HOME AND HOSPITAL	£1,016,000
TOTAL	£4,219,100

4 Risks and Pressures

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

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- 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 continues is to implement 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 and the Middlesbrough Offer meets the needs of the majority of learners with SEN or at risk of exclusion
- Robust scrutiny and monitoring of High Needs budgets within the local authority and the use of budgets out in settings
- Increased transparency of how 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