



## Warrington Schools Forum

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### Agenda

**Date:** Tuesday 26 June 2018

**Time:** 5.15 pm – 7.00 pm

**Venue:** Sir Thomas Boteler CE High School, Grammar School Road, Latchford, Warrington, WA4 1JL

	Item	Enc / Verbal	Decision; Discussion; Information	Entitled to vote	Lead
1.	Apologies and Welcome				Chair
2.	Minutes from the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising	Enc			Chair
3.	Scheme for financing schools	Enc	Discussion		Garry Bradbury
4.	DSG Outturn 2017/18	Enc	Decision	Primary sector reps	Garry Bradbury
5.	School Balances	Enc	Information / Decision	Maintained sector reps	Garry Bradbury
6.	High Needs (i) DSG Allocations to Budgets  (ii) SEND Improvement Programme	Enc  Enc	Information  Information / Decision		Garry Bradbury  Hilary Smith ( <i>on behalf of Paula Worthington</i> )
7.	AOB				Chair
8.	<b>Meeting schedule:</b> Tuesday 2 October 2018 at 5.15 pm Tuesday 4 December 2018 at 5.15 pm ( <i>Venue for all meetings – Sir Thomas Boteler CE High School</i> )				

**Warrington Schools Forum**
**Minutes – 6 March 2018**

Draft to be confirmed June 2018

**Membership** (this represents the position at the meeting on 6 March 2018 – an updated table will be available on 26 June 2018 following identification of new representatives)

Membership with differentiated voting rights ~ Total Membership of 25, of whom 21 are entitled to vote on funding formula issues												
Sector Representation (21)	Appointed by the Council following election by:	Member	Dates and Attendance									Tenure Ends
			22 March 2016	28 June 2016	27 Sept 2016	10 Jan 2017	2 March 2017	27 June 2017	3 October 2017	5 Dec 2017	6 March 2018	
Maintained Nursery School Senior Staff (1)	Primary Headteachers Group	Jane Wilkie (JWil)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Jan 2020
Special School Staff (1)	Special School Headteachers Group	Mike Frost (MF)	P	S	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Jan 2020
Special School Governor (1)	Governors Forum	Vacant (from 5 Dec)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	Jan 2020
PRU (1)	PRU Management Board	Sam Rigby-White (SRW) from 3 Oct	A	S	A	S	X	X	S	P	X	Jan 2020
Academy (4)	Academy Schools	Gwyn Williams (GW)	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	Jan 2020
		Tim Long (TL)	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	Jan 2020
		John Carlin (JC) from 3 Oct	-	-	A	P	S	S	A	P	A	Jan 2020
		Vacant (from 6 Mar)	P	A	P	X	X	X	X	X	-	Jan 2020
Maintained Primary School Sector (9)	WAPH (5)	Vacant (from 6 Mar)	A	P	P	P	P	S	P	P	-	Jan 2020
		Hazel Fryman (HF) from 3 Oct	-	-	P	P	A	A	P	P	P	Jan 2020
		Gary Cunningham (GC)	P	A	P	P	S	P	P	P	A	Jan 2020
		Lesley McGann (LM)	-	-	P	A	P	X	P	P	P	Jan 2020
		Lyndsey Glass (LG)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	Jan 2020
	Governors Forum (4)	Stuart Munslow (SM)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	Jan 2020
		David Hart (DH)	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	Jan 2020
		Janet Lazarus (JL)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Jan 2020
Maintained Secondary School Sector (3)	WASCL (2)	Bev Scott-Herron (BSH)	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	Jan 2020
		Chris Hunt (CH)	-	-	-	P	A	P	P	P	A	Jan 2020
	Governors Forum (1)	Vacant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Jan 2020
Private Voluntary and Independent Providers (1)	PVI Providers Forum	Ginny Taylor (GT)	P	A	P	S	P	P	A	P	A	Jan 2020

Representing	Member	22 March 2016	28 June 2016	27 Sept 2016	10 Jan 2017	2 March 2017	27 June 2017	3 October 2017	5 Dec 2017	6 March 2018	Tenure Ends
<b>Non-Schools Members (4)</b>											
Anglican Diocese (1)	Jacqui Wightman (JWig)	P	P	S	P	P	P	P	A	P	Jan 2020
Roman Catholic Diocese (1)	Tim Warren (TW)	P	X	X	A	P	P	P	P	A	Jan 2020
16-19 Institutions (1)	Vacant	S	X	P	A	X	A	-	-	-	Jan 2020
Parent Governor (1)	Vacant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Jan 2020
<b>Independent Chair</b>	Maureen Banner (MB)	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	Jan 2020
<b>Representing Warrington Borough Council</b>											
Head of Education	Hilary Smith (HS)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Chief Finance Officer	James Campbell (JC)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Senior Accountant (Schools)	Garry Bradbury (GB)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services	Clr Jean Carter (ClrJC)	A	P	A	A	P	P	P	A	A	

**Key**

**P** ~ Present

**A** ~ Apologies

**X** ~ Absent with no apologies

**S** ~ Substitute

**-** ~ Vacancy

**O** ~ Observer

**Non-School Member Representing Trades Unions**

Shaun Everett (NUT & ATL)

Mick Burrows (NASUWT) – attending on behalf of Gary Mogey (NASUWT)

**Presenting an Item:**

Paula Worthington (for Item 2)

**Minutes:**

Gill Sykes

	<i>Item</i>	<b>Action</b>
1.	<p><b>Apologies and Welcome</b></p> <p>The chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. Apologies were noted from Cllr Jean Carter, Tim Warren, Chris Hunt, Gary Mogeey, John Carlin, Stuart Munslow, Ginny Taylor and Lee Barber.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Latest Position on High Needs</b></p> <p>Paula Worthington (PW) presented a report to the forum, and the paper was discussed. The following points were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since tightening up of the triage process and improved scrutiny and challenge of the submissions received for an EHC Plan, more requests have been turned down. Sometimes information may not be complete, or the provision map shows money has not yet been spent. Headteachers and SENCOs are included on the panel which adds to the scrutiny of the process.</li> <li>• PW referred to data recording issues with Capita. We may need to consider whether to continue with the system or look at a costly add-on to Mosaic. There is an issue with different data systems not talking to each other. MB noted that this may be something that could be flagged politically for Invest to Save. It was noted that this does not relate to large numbers of children and parallel tracking could take place to identify any discrepancy with Capita. PW noted that if the difference is small it may be worth persevering.</li> <li>• LG queried 4.3 of the report regarding figures showing lowering of SEN Support numbers and the increasing of EHC Plan numbers. LG noted that they are not the same children so no correlation.</li> <li>• PW noted that we commission a mediation service, but so far it has not been used. We are required by Ofsted to have this service. It was noted that the mediation service can be highlighted at the upcoming Warrington Parents and Carers Conference. Mediation may be a cause for anxiety, but highlighting this may give parents/carers the confidence to use it.</li> </ul> <p>A query was raised about the governance arrangements noted in Appendix A to the report, asking where the challenge and accountability is. PW noted that although the SEND Strategic Improvement Board is currently being chaired by Steve Peddie, we can look for an independent chair to ensure scrutiny.</p> <p><b><u>Action 1:</u> PW to provide TOR for the SEND Strategic Improvement Board to be sent out with the minutes.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was noted that the SEND Review Board is being chaired by PW.</li> <li>• Top-up arrangements and the use of Bands F and G were discussed, and whether the bands could be standardised with the same increments for each band. GB informed that top-ups are an LA decision, but Schools Forum could recommend the compression or deletion of bands. MB asked for this to be taken back to sectors for discussion and return with feedback to Schools Forum.</li> <li>• There is a need to ensure that Band F and G funding is being used appropriately, and there is a question around whether some of this funding is supporting health needs. A robust approach needs to be taken to ensure health and social</li> </ul>	PW

	<i>Item</i>	<b>Action</b>
	<p>care money is used when appropriate and education is not paying a lot of their costs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paula to anonymise a table of information (Band F and G cases) and add a column for school name. This can be used to support conversations with health colleagues around children who are their responsibility. Health should be providing financial support for their care.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action 2: PW to provide the anonymised table to be sent out with the minutes.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion took place around Bands A to F, and whether they needed to be renamed/numbered and whether this would cause confusion with existing plans. GB noted that this is something the SEN Review Board could discuss and make a recommendation to Schools Forum and then the local authority. It was noted that WAPH and WASCL are represented on the SEN Review Board.</li> <li>Post 16 provision was discussed. A proposal is currently in development to establish a graduated offer in Warrington for young people 16 to 25 years. We are looking at suggestions around capacity in the system, and any proposals would go to the SEN Review Board before being presented to Schools Forum for consideration. There are plans to pilot a new approach to the triage and assessment process for EHC Plans. PW noted that the criteria for the panel is out of date (on Ask Ollie) and as a priority this document needs to be updated, and could be brought to Schools Forum for discussion before it is finalised.</li> </ul> <p>A request was made by Schools Forum that when reports are issued, the graphics transfer to black and white that so that you can read them without printing in colour.</p> <p>Schools Forum is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note that the projected overspend as of the end of period 9 <b>NOTED</b></li> <li>Agree and commit to supporting the programme of work outlined in this report which includes: <b>NOTED</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A review of school places in designated and special schools</li> <li>A comprehensive review of top-up arrangements</li> <li>Developing a graduated offer for young people post 16</li> <li>Involvement in the work using behavioural insight techniques with different key stakeholders to address the behaviours which may be increasing the number of EHC Plans</li> <li>Changes to the triage and assessment process to ensure that resources are allocated in the best interests of the child.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	PW
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Minutes From the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising</b></p> <p>The minutes were accepted as a true record, and future venues for Schools Forum meetings were discussed. There is no longer parking available at New Town House and BSH offered to host the meetings. It was agreed that future meetings would take place at Sir Thomas Boteler CE High School.</p>	

	<i>Item</i>	<b>Action</b>
	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PW to provide projected costs and savings noted against the action plan. PW informed that there is a benefits realisation plan being produced but it wasn't ready in time for this meeting. It can be sent to forum members separately if it is available before the next meeting.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Membership Review</b></p> <p>HS presented a report to the forum for a review of Schools Forum membership to ensure appropriate representation that reflects the current positions in the primary and secondary phases, and the maintained and academy settings. It was proposed for the membership to be reviewed in the spring term of each academic year to reflect the October pupil census and conversions to academy. <b>AGREED</b></p> <p>It was proposed and agreed for the school/academy membership to be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary Maintained 8</li> <li>Secondary Maintained 2</li> <li>Primary Academy 1</li> <li>Secondary Academy 5</li> </ul> <p>This means that the following vacancies exist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary Maintained 1</li> <li>Secondary Maintained 1</li> <li>Primary Academy 1 (check if Andrew Redman would be rep)</li> <li>Secondary Academy 1 (check if Bev Scott-Herron would be rep)</li> <li>Post 16 1</li> <li>Governor - Academy 1</li> <li>Governor - Parent 1</li> <li>Governor - Special School 1 (replacement required following step down)</li> </ul> <p>Lee Barber has been named as the representative for UTC but gave his apologies for today's meeting. Governors Forum to agree named Schools Forum representatives.</p> <p>It was proposed that the term of membership for all members will be until 31 August 2020, unless there is a reason to step down beforehand. <b>AGREED</b></p> <p><b>Action 3: LG and BSH to raise Schools Forum membership at the next meetings of WAPH and WASCL and then confirm named representatives for the relevant vacancies.</b></p>	<p>LG / BSH</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Surface Water Update</b></p> <p>GB informed that we have received a letter from the Director of Economic Regulation (United Utilities), confirming that the discount will be in place for the foreseeable future. The text of the letter makes it clear that in the next few years they are not</p>	

	<i>Item</i>	<b>Action</b>
	going to take away the discount. This discount will therefore be in place for the next few years in schools' budgets.	
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>DSG Settlement and School Budgets Update</b></p> <p>GB presented a report to the forum and noted that as the Schools Block settlement was within the £0.5m under or over expectation, there had been no requirement for an extraordinary meeting in January 2018 to revisit the Schools Forum's formula decision.</p> <p>GB informed that schools should have received their funding pack detailing the total school budgets. If anyone has not yet received their pack please let GB know.</p> <p>Discussion took place around floor protection and the sustainability of this. The report notes that there is no certainty of how long this protection will be maintained by the DfE following the mandatory implementation in 2020. This is something we will have to keep under review.</p> <p>Jane Wilkie highlighted Sandy Lane (maintained nursery) with the first 15hrs protected and the second 15hrs not protected, and the significant impact on the budget. Currently they have 28 children accessing 30hrs and are not receiving maintained nursery funding for it. Sandy Lane are trying to be very cautious with the budget in order to be sustainable going forward, and request that any underspend is looked at as an exception when considering any potential clawbacks. MB declared an interest in Sandy Lane and did not take part in this discussion.</p> <p>GB noted that the retention of surplus can be considered on an individual basis, but in future there will be a requirement to fund all the settings at the same rate.</p> <p>It was noted that as a council and group of schools across Warrington we have committed to support maintained nursery schools. Until the position changes we have an obligation to look at ways in which we ensure the viability of the nursery in the short term. Sandy Lane nursery is a special case, it is a special provision and expert in its field, and is different from the other maintained nursery classes in maintained schools. Even if Sandy Lane was exempt from the balance challenge, we would still have to report on it every year.</p> <p>MB referred to the clawback system as a local agreement not a national agreement, and that perhaps this agreement should be reviewed. MB asked for clawback to be taken back to sectors to discuss, and return with feedback to the next Schools Forum meeting.</p> <p>It is recommended that Schools Forum members representing mainstream schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Note the contents of the report; <b>NOTED</b></li> <li>(ii) Communicate the budget figures to their representative sectors <b>NOTED</b></li> </ul>	

	<i>Item</i>	<b>Action</b>
7.	<b>AOB</b> – no items	
8.	<b>Meeting schedule:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuesday 26 June 2018      5.15pm</li> <li>• Tuesday 2 October 2018      5.15pm</li> <li>• Tuesday 4 December 2018      5.15pm</li> </ul> <i>(Venue for all meetings – Sir Thomas Boteler CE High School)</i>	

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed.



## SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS

First directed update of *Scheme for Financing Schools* since December 2015.

Updated sections **4.8**, **4.10** and **Annex B** following changes to legislation about balances of closing schools, redundancy and early retirement costs and a directed revision to loan schemes.

Loans will only be used to assist schools in spreading the cost over more than one year of large one-off individual items of a capital nature that have a benefit to the school lasting more than one financial or academic year. Loans will not be used as a means of funding a deficit that has arisen because a school's recurrent costs exceed its current income. If loans are made to fund a deficit and a school subsequently converts to academy status, the Secretary of State will consider using the power under paragraph 13(4)(d) of Schedule 1 to the Academies Act 2010 to make a direction to the effect that such a loan does not transfer, either in full or part, to the new Academy school.

### Updates to the guidance

Updates have been made to the guidance, to mirror changes in the Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2018.

**Paragraph 4.8** has been updated to reflect changes on balances of closing schools, as detailed under Regulation 25 (9).

It now reads:

- 4.8 Where in the funding period, a school has been established or is subject to a prescribed alteration as a result of the closure of a school, a local authority may add an amount to the budget share of the new or enlarged school to reflect all or part of the unspent budget share (including any surplus carried over from previous funding periods) of the closing school for the funding period in which it closes.

### Annex B:

Responsibility for redundancy and early retirement costs has been updated to reflect changes under Schedule 2 Part 7, of the Finance Regulations. This details how a local authority can retain a central budget within the schools budget to fund the costs of new early retirements or redundancies by a deduction from maintained school budgets (excluding nursery schools) only, where the relevant maintained school members of the schools forum agree.

Additional updates made include:

- the removal of wording in **paragraph 2.3.1**, as regulations no longer allow local authorities to issue budget shares for a multi-year period.
- References to the Audit Commission have been removed from **paragraph 2.6**, as this has been abolished.
- Within **paragraph 6.2.15**, 'statement of SEN' has been replaced with 'Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)'.

# REPORT

<b>Report to:</b>	Schools Forum	<b>Item:</b>	4
<b>Date:</b>	26th June 2018	<b>For:</b>	Decision
<b>Title:</b>	Dedicated Schools Grant Outturn Position 2017/18		
<b>Author:</b>	Garry Bradbury	<b>Presenter:</b>	Garry Bradbury

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to notify Schools Forum of the confirmed outturn position for the retained Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budgets for 2017/18. This includes whole-school activities and central education functions, but excludes individual school balances, which are reported on separately (Item 5 on this evening's Agenda).
- 1.2 The accounts for financial year 2017/18 were closed in mid-April, but have not yet been officially ratified by Audit. Families & Wellbeing Directorate has reported an overspend on DSG of £1,287,056. This represents, in percentage terms, a deficit balance of 1.177% after accounting for Academy recoupment. However, because Schools Block DSG is 100% committed, with the surpluses and deficits being retained by the schools, the reported overspend is generated against the Early Years and High Needs blocks, where it represents an overspend of 4.16%.
- Schools Forum has discussed many times the increasing pressure on budgets for high needs activities, when considered against the general and relative low funding of Warrington. When discussed at the December meeting of Schools Forum, DSG was forecast to be overspent by £1.6m, and expected to rise, so the confirmed closing deficit actually represents an improvement, and has only been possible due to:
- implementing an in-year clawback of £159,000 from post-16 SEN funding earmarked for future year priorities, and
  - final settlement invoices for independent school SEN placements being £133,000 less than expectation.

Nevertheless, the position means that there is no funding to be recirculated generally to schools. Ordinarily, this deficit would be 'first call' as a spending pressure for 2018/19, but Members will recall that the Local Authority has agreed as a one-off to fund this overspend corporately, to enable the High Needs block to at least start with no accrued deficit.

## 2 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT BALANCES

2.1 DSG is reporting a net overspend of £1.287 million in 2017/18. This overall position is an aggregate of a number of individual variances. The table below shows those individual balances with appropriate observations:

2.2

Expenditure Type	Balance	Comment
<i>Brought-forward from 2016/17</i>	-£82,694	
<b>a) School-driven items</b>		
Staffing	£19,970	Union duties, long-term sickness, rehab & maternity
High Needs place number increases at schools	-£201,668	Fox Wood (4 places), Green Lane (7 places), Oakwood, Woolston CP (additional DP places)
Clawback from time-delayed funding of special schools' post-16 provision	£159,000	Fox Wood 6 <sup>th</sup> Form
<b>b) Local Authority Commissioned Services</b>		
Speech Therapy	-£398	Contract price increase (FYE 2018/19)
Sensory Team	£28,692	Vacancies
Nursery funding	£61,254	Early Years pupil premium allocated on estimate, plus activity slightly lower than expected.
New Horizons Top-Ups	-£163,333	
EOTAS/Home Tuition	£56,712	
SEN top-ups	-£58,184	
Independent School Fees	-£982,889	Increases in demand and unit costs
Inter-Authority Recoupment	£105,284	Less charging by LAs, more by independent settings
Post-16 SEN	-£312,713	Increases in demand and unit costs
Other	£83,911	Various small underspends
	<b><u>-£1,287,056</u></b>	

- 2.3 As discussed in section 1.3, there is no general DSG underspend to consider utilising, but the underspends on contingencies dedelegated last year by maintained primary schools may be:
- a) returned to those schools via the same principle as the original dedelegation;
  - b) added to the equivalent contingency pots in current year; or
  - c) retained by the LA for a purpose agreed with the sector representatives.
- 2.4 The aggregate underspend on the primary contingencies from 2017/18 is £273,201. These contingencies were established by a lump sum dedelegation; returning this funding to the schools on the same basis would issue £4,139.41 to each participating setting (includes those schools which have subsequently converted to Academy status).

### **3 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Schools Forum is asked to note the 2017/18 outturn position for DSG, and that this overspend has been funded by corporate reserves.
- 3.2 Maintained primary school representatives are asked to consider how the contingencies' underspends of £273,201 should be utilised.

# REPORT

WARRINGTON  
Borough Council



<b>Report to:</b>	Schools Forum	<b>Item:</b>	5
<b>Date:</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	<b>For:</b>	Information / Decision
<b>Title:</b>	School Balances 2017/18		
<b>Author:</b>	Garry Bradbury	<b>Presenter:</b>	Garry Bradbury

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to notify Schools Forum of the final individual balances for Warrington maintained schools as at end 2017/18, and compare the overall picture with the corresponding situation in the previous year.
- 1.2 For balances at end 2016/17, Schools Forum had agreed a methodology under which 12.5% of any balances in excess of the sector triggers (8% of delegation for primaries and special, 5% of delegation for secondaries) would be clawed back, which amounted to £51,390. At the last Forum meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018, it was agreed that the approach to be taken to balance challenge for 2017/18 would be discussed at WAPH and WASCL, with the results to be fed back as recommendation for Forum consideration at this evening's meeting.

## 2 SCHOOL BALANCES

- 2.1 The aggregate of school balances for Warrington maintained schools at the end of the previous financial year was £4,932,969 (an average retention level of 5%). This compares to the corresponding aggregate balance reported at the end of 2016/17 of £5,018,963 (a reduction of £85,995). However, this reported figure included the balances of seven Local Authority schools which converted to Academy status during the last financial year. Therefore, for a more accurate comparison, those balances, shown overleaf, should be removed from the 2016/17 figure, meaning that the in-year variance is a reduction of £20,470.

Balances removed from in-year comparison:

	Surpluses	Deficits
Great Sankey Primary School	£105,494	
Park Road Primary School	£46,531	
Burtonwood Primary School	£50,575	
Old Hall Primary School	£44,966	
Chapelford Primary School		£51,023
Sir Thomas Boteler High School		£27,397
New Horizons PRU		£103,622
	<b>£247,566</b>	<b>£182,042</b>

2.2 The overall movements per sector are highlighted below:

Sector	2016/17 £m	2017/18 £m	Movement
Primary	£3.722m	£3.738m	+£0.016m
Secondary	£0.496m	£0.354m	-£0.142m
Special & AP	£0.735m	£0.841m	+£0.106m
TOTAL	£4.953m	£4.933m	-£0.020m

As can be seen, the only sector with a decrease in balances is the maintained secondary phase, where the reduction is 28.6%. The primary and special sector balances have increased by 0.4% and 14.3% respectively (although without the removal of New Horizons' 2016/17 deficit, the special/AP sector aggregate balance would be almost unchanged).

Individual school balances are detailed in **Appendix 1**.

2.3 If the current clawback criterion were to be applied as before, a total of £50,509 would be clawed back from 11 schools, as overleaf.

Cost Centre	School	2017/2018 Balance £	2017/2018 Budget Share £	2017/2018 Balance of Budget Share %	Current Clawback Calculation
35002	Dallam	158,300	1,623,976	10%	£3,548
35020	Appleton St Monica's	69,782	818,702	9%	£536
35026	Thelwall Junior	61,564	701,452	9%	£681
35028	Statham	77,945	796,883	10%	£1,774
35040	Brook Acre	122,999	1,429,791	9%	£1,077
35045	Locking Stumps	120,834	1,394,830	9%	£1,156
35057	Sankey Valley St James'	109,009	1,131,551	10%	£2,311
35060	Birchwood	120,196	1,109,517	11%	£3,929
35405	Sandy Lane Nursery & Forest School	128,170	719,631	18%	£8,825
35200	Green Lane	371,453	2,506,623	15%	£21,366
35201	Fox Wood	178,018	1,694,603	11%	£5,306
<b>Total</b>					<b>£50,509</b>

2.4 If invoked, any clawback is still under the *Scheme for Financing Schools* framework, and consequently the Local Authority would require a steer from Forum members on what use it should be put to. We suggest that because the overall clawback would be of minimal impact if recirculated generally to schools, it would be appropriate to use in partial offset of the anticipated DSG overspend in 2018/19.

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Schools Forum is asked to note the level of school balances recorded at the end of 2017/18.

3.2 Schools Forum is asked to recommend what, if any, methodology should be applied to calculate an appropriate clawback in respect of exceptional balances held as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

3.3 If a clawback is agreed, Schools Forum should recommend how this aggregate should be utilised for the collective benefit of Warrington schools, bearing in mind the source of this funding, and the funding areas of greatest shortfall.

**Appendix 1: 2017/2018 School Balances**

	2017/2018	2017/2018	2017/2018	2016/2017	Year on Year	
	Closing Bal @ 31.3.18	Budget Share	Balance of Budget Share		Balance @ 31.3.17	£
	£	£	%	£		
<b>PRIMARY SCHOOLS</b>						
35001 Bewsey Lodge	62,159	1,733,072	4%	83,204	-21,045	-25%
35002 Dallam	158,300	1,623,976	10%	136,755	21,545	16%
35004 Meadowside	44,513	1,649,540	3%	27,434	17,079	62%
35005 Oakwood Avenue	97,003	2,929,843	3%	58,686	38,317	65%
35006 St Elphins CE	115,880	1,730,263	7%	138,779	-22,899	-17%
35007 St Andrew's	83,610	1,024,666	8%	78,026	5,585	7%
35008 St Ann's	60,810	1,167,793	5%	88,193	-27,383	-31%
35009 St Barnabas	35,297	1,118,317	3%	-3,922	39,220	-1000%
35010 St Margaret's	154,149	1,982,600	8%	145,792	8,357	6%
35011 Our Lady's	56,367	964,366	6%	51,308	5,059	10%
35012 Sacred Heart	42,587	892,853	5%	51,297	-8,711	-17%
35013 St Alban's	-639	892,916	0%	42,698	-43,337	-101%
35014 St Augustine's	68,792	857,807	8%	23,709	45,083	190%
35015 St Benedict's	65,683	962,694	7%	55,660	10,023	18%
35016 St Stephen's	44,845	969,024	5%	75,426	-30,580	-41%
35017 Appleton Thorn	32,495	796,804	4%	15,132	17,362	115%
35018 Appleton The Cobbs	77,749	1,224,989	6%	65,233	12,515	19%
35019 Appleton Broomfields	17,714	1,355,025	1%	26,375	-8,661	-33%
35020 Appleton St Monica's	69,782	818,702	9%	64,746	5,036	8%
35021 Grappenhall St Wilfrids	33,018	1,386,477	2%	44,396	-11,378	-26%
35022 Grappenhall Bradshaw	55,688	802,783	7%	49,176	6,512	13%
35023 Stockton Heath St Thomas	42,428	907,099	5%	52,379	-9,951	-19%
35024 Stockton Heath	63,526	1,390,136	5%	73,639	-10,113	-14%
35025 Stretton St Matthew's	30,681	755,773	4%	24,870	5,811	23%
35026 Thelwall	61,564	701,452	9%	53,728	7,837	15%
35027 Thelwall	37,368	570,856	7%	30,032	7,336	24%
35028 Lymm Statham	77,945	796,883	10%	65,365	12,580	19%
35029 Lymm Cherry Tree	6,188	860,624	1%	13,297	-7,109	-53%
35030 Lymm Ravenbank	41,042	1,495,424	3%	52,203	-11,161	-21%
35031 Lymm Oughtrington	107,994	1,462,448	7%	80,974	27,020	33%
35032 Glazebury	42,568	520,989	8%	38,969	3,599	9%
35033 Culcheth	61,946	922,917	7%	61,967	-21	0%
35034 Culcheth Newchurch	70,314	833,745	8%	58,324	11,990	21%
35035 Culcheth Twiss Green	60,789	829,175	7%	80,623	-19,834	-25%
35036 St Paul of the Cross	34,913	756,273	5%	36,860	-1,948	-5%
35038 Christ Church	67,392	1,424,723	5%	29,740	37,652	127%
35039 Padgate St Oswald's	-11,662	820,323	-1%	8,272	-19,934	-241%
35040 Brook Acre	122,999	1,429,791	9%	65,516	57,483	88%
35042 St Bridget's	7,960	1,075,592	1%	24,355	-16,395	-67%
35043 Croft St Lewis	48,489	823,400	6%	39,898	8,591	22%
35044 Croft	31,529	847,853	4%	55,084	-23,555	-43%
35045 Locking Stumps	120,834	1,394,830	9%	106,227	14,607	14%
35047 Penketh St Joseph's	47,897	1,037,950	5%	65,633	-17,736	-27%
35048 Penketh St Vincent's	6,820	932,028	1%	100,354	-93,534	-93%
35049 Penketh South	8,691	818,522	1%	40,310	-31,618	-78%
35050 Woolston St Peter's	49,035	815,565	6%	68,135	-19,100	-28%
35051 Woolston	61,087	1,102,576	6%	86,146	-25,058	-29%
35052 Woolston	34,811	821,457	4%	47,953	-13,142	-27%
35056 Gt Sankey Barrow Hall Lane	99,049	1,858,822	5%	86,526	12,523	14%
35057 Sankey Valley St James	109,009	1,131,551	10%	77,110	31,898	41%
35058 Hollinfare St Helen's	43,613	621,302	7%	38,783	4,830	12%
35059 Winwick	9,872	761,757	1%	55,298	-45,426	-82%
35060 Birchwood	120,196	1,109,517	11%	103,113	17,083	17%
35061 Gorse Covert	85,516	1,116,206	8%	67,088	18,428	27%
35062 Cinnamon Brow	94,501	1,569,072	6%	37,872	56,629	150%
35064 Callands	-80,887	1,205,856	-7%	-88,818	7,932	-9%
35065 St Phillips Church & Comm.	95,595	1,588,815	6%	137,270	-41,675	-30%
35066 Grappenhall Heys	46,728	875,226	5%	40,368	6,360	16%
35067 Latchford St James	51,305	982,221	5%	54,289	-2,985	-5%
35068 Alderman Bolton Primary	60,307	1,565,773	4%	45,030	15,276	34%
35070 Beamont Primary	163,673	1,984,663	8%	114,235	49,438	43%
35405 Sandy Lane Nursery	128,170	719,631	18%	174,633	-46,463	-27%
<b>Total Primary</b>	<b>3,737,598</b>	<b>70,123,326</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>3,721,752</b>	<b>15,846</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>SECONDARY SCHOOLS</b>						
35103 Culcheth	240,627	5,448,952	4%	286,535	-45,908	-16%
35107 St Gregor's	88,148	4,603,582	2%	92,905	-4,757	-5%
35121 Cardinal Newman	25,650	3,933,232	1%	116,801	-91,151	-78%
<b>Total Secondary</b>	<b>354,425</b>	<b>13,985,766</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>496,240</b>	<b>-141,816</b>	<b>-29%</b>
<b>SPECIAL SCHOOLS &amp; ALT PROVISION</b>						
35200 Green Lane	371,453	2,506,623	15%	247,833	123,620	50%
35205 Green Lane 6th Form	101,046	425,090	24%	78,130	22,916	29%
35201 Fox Wood	178,018	1,694,603	11%	201,093	-23,075	-11%
35206 Fox Wood 6th Form	138,081	463,845	30%	132,282	5,799	4%
35202 Woolston Brook	52,348	1,760,048	3%	76,108	-23,760	-31%
<b>Total Special Schools &amp; Alternative Prov</b>	<b>840,946</b>	<b>6,850,208</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>735,446</b>	<b>105,500</b>	<b>14%</b>
	<b>4,932,969</b>	<b>90,959,300</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>4,953,438</b>	<b>-20,470</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>



# REPORT

WARRINGTON  
Borough Council



<b>Report to:</b>	Schools Forum	<b>Item:</b>	6(i)
<b>Date:</b>	26 June 2018	<b>For:</b>	Information
<b>Title:</b>	Dedicated Schools Grant budgets 2018/19		
<b>Author:</b>	Garry Bradbury	<b>Presenter:</b>	Garry Bradbury

## 1. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to illustrate how the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation for Warrington for 2018/19 has been allocated to individual budgets, after the previous funding discussions at the 6<sup>th</sup> March Schools Forum meeting.

## 2. DSG BLOCK ALLOCATIONS FOR 2018/19

- 2.1 As has been the case in recent years, DSG settlements were confirmed by ESFA in December, in order to facilitate submission of the local schools funding formula in mid-January. This settlement covered all four blocks of DSG (Schools Block, Early Years Block, High Needs Block and Central Services Block). As the final Early Years Block allocation derives from January 2018 census numbers, this element of the settlement should be considered provisional (it will not be finalised until Summer 2018). Initially, a Local Authority's allocation includes the budgets for all schools, including Academies, as the LA and Schools Forum collaborate to agree all individual delegations, but the Academy element is subsequently deducted (recouped) from the overall funding received, and given to those settings directly.
- 2.2 The DSG Block allocations are shown in the table overleaf, with the previous year equivalents for comparison (Central Schools Block is new for 2018/19, representing some of the collective responsibilities previously subsumed in the High Needs Block - copyright licensing, health & safety etc).

	<i>£ value</i>	<i>Census Nos</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>2018/19 DSG</i>	<i>2017/18 DSG</i>	
Schools Block (Primary)	£3,909.09	17,952	£70,175,984		£4,279.35	
Schools Block (Secondary)	£4,886.85	11,782	£57,576,867		29,316	
Rates funding (17/18 levels)			£1,380,785			
Split Site Funding			£297,000			
Growth Funding			£287,852	£129,718,488		£125,453,000
Early Years Block 15 hr offer 3 & 4	£4.30	3,350.17	£8,211,267		£8,374,985	
Early Years Block extended 15 hr offer 3 & 4	£4.30	1,169.60	£2,866,690		£1,611,614	
Early Years 2 year old	£5.28	634.20	£1,908,688		£2,037,299	
Early Years Pupil Premium			£86,461		£98,817	
Early Years Disability Access Fund			£48,585		£43,050	
Nursery School Protection			£56,594	£13,178,285	£71,174	£12,236,939
High Needs Block				£19,594,046		£19,414,874
Central Services Block	£29.06	29,734	£864,070	£864,070		£0
<b>Total DSG (before recoupments for Academies)</b>				<b>£163,354,889</b>		<b>£157,104,813</b>

2.3 While the use of the Schools and Early Years blocks are clear and fairly straightforward (mainstream school budgets and EY hourly rates respectively), the demands upon the High Needs Block are many and wide-ranging, encompassing all activities not considered mainstream or pre-school. This includes, though is not limited to:

- Additional Support/SEN top-ups for students in mainstream settings.
- Full funding of designated/resourced provisions
- Delegated budgets of special schools and alternative provision (including the provision at Sandy Lane, and New Horizons Pupil Referral Unit)
- Medical and therapy costs
- Specialist support placements outside the LA, or at non-maintained special schools nationwide
- Inclusion & Access
- Other central support costs not funded by Schools or Early Years Blocks

2.4 Schools Block of £129,718,488 has been allocated as overleaf, using the new National Formula as the basis for calculation, as agreed at the Schools Forum of 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017:

	LA Schools	Academies
Primary school mainstream budgets	£62,468,348	£ 8,698,050
Secondary school mainstream budgets	£13,903,116	£44,648,957
<b>TOTAL MAINSTREAM BUDGETS</b>	<b>£76,371,464</b>	<b>£53,347,007</b>

These figures represent the maintained/Academy profile as at end-March 2018, i.e. after the Omega conversions but before those of Penketh South, Beamont and Alderman Bolton primary schools. The recoupment from LA allocations changes iteratively to reflect in-year conversions.

2.5 Early Years Block of £13,178,285 has been allocated as below:

	15 hr	30 hr (notional)	Total
Nursery Classes (3 & 4)	£2,916,494	£713,339	£3,629,833
Sandy Lane Nursery			£245,848
PVIs (3 & 4)	£5,046,768	£2,085,017	£7,131,785
2-Year Old Allocations			£1,807,470
Portage/SEN Spt +/Vulnerable Pupils			£169,553
EY Pupil Premium			£86,461
Disability Access Fund			£48,585
Contrib to High Needs			£58,751
			<b><u>£13,178,286</u></b>

2.6 **Appendix 1** illustrates how the High Needs & Central Schools Blocks have been allocated, bearing in mind the small overall increase against a backdrop of greatly increasing pressure of demand. It has not been possible to set a balanced budget for High Needs, with a provisional shortfall of £2.25 million, even after the corporate funding of the 2017/18 closing deficit. In common with the majority of local authorities, all avenues must be explored to work within inadequate levels of funding.

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that Schools Forum note the contents of the report and the financial position on High Needs.

## Appendix 1: High Needs Budgets 2018/19

	2018/19 Allocation	2017/18 Allocation	Change	
HN top-ups (Element 3) in base budgets (Primary)	£1,151,497	£875,691	£316,834	
HN top-ups (Element 3) in base budgets (Secondary)	£444,774	£351,257		
HN top-ups (Element 3) in base budgets (Special)		£52,489		
In-year high-cost SEN top-ups (Element 3)	£570,000	£570,000		Increase in EHCP numbers/costs
Designated Provision (Primary) - Place plus Top-Ups	£1,327,234	£1,522,846	£39,278	
Designated Provision (Secondary) - Place plus Top-Ups	£240,528	£486,604		
Designated Provision (Penketh) - Place change	£14,000			
Designated Provision - unfilled places	£68,333			
Academy Place Deduction	£702,333	£420,000		DP places increased, but place funding reduced from £10K to £6K
Designated Provision (Academy Top-Ups)	£439,178	£322,878		
Special Schools Base Budgets	£5,942,213	£5,676,273	£238,658	
Woolston Brook funding adjustment for January census (+2 NOR)	£27,282	£54,564		Increase in places across schools
New Horizons Pupil Referral Unit upfront funding	£560,000	£560,000	£0	
Central Functions retained for Special Schools/AP (dedelegated equivalents)	£55,667	£87,136	£-31,469	Reflects Academy conversion of New Horizons, plus some central functions picked up by special schools
Sandy Lane - Unit	£420,000	£420,000	£0	
Sandy Lane Outreach SLA	£75,000	£75,000	£0	
Independent Special School Fees	£3,900,000	£2,800,000	£1,100,000	Reflects growing demand and 2017/18 outturn
Inter-Authority recoupment	£150,000	£240,000	£-90,000	More settings paid direct through ISF
FE/College top-ups	£247,667			
Speech Therapy contract costs	£116,500	£104,000	£12,500	Contract price increase
Sensory Support Team	£255,000	£255,000	£0	
Vulnerable Pupils (EOTAS, KS1/2 Alt provision, Fair Access, Travellers)	£273,710	£273,710	£0	
Hospital & Medical Education, per grant	£311,525	£311,525	£0	
Post-16 High Needs	£2,700,000	£2,300,000	£400,000	Reflects growing demand and 2017/18 outturn
Post-16 Special School Places	£350,000	£350,000	£0	
Health & Safety contribution	£80,000	£80,000	£0	
Servers / CareFirst	£94,489	£79,130	£15,359	Contract price increases
Schools Forum Support	£5,000	£5,000	£0	
Central licences EFA levy (copyright etc)	£145,186	£174,758	£-29,572	Reclaiming of VAT
Access Recharge	£46,077	£46,077	£0	
Home to School Transport for Children in Care	£200,000	£200,000	£0	
Narrowing The Gap Coordinator		£40,000	£-40,000	Funding removed per Schools Forum request
Inclusion Team	£1,050,000	£1,050,000	£0	
Education Systems Coordinator post in Targeted Services	£37,000	£37,000	£0	
Tutoring	£7,000	£7,000	£0	
Careers	£36,000	£36,000	£0	
Special Purpose Grant	£43,000	£43,000	£0	
Contingency		£83,235	£-83,235	No surplus to allocate
Place Deductions	£684,000	£0	£684,000	Place deduction Priestley College (29) and WVRC (85) in 2018/19 figure
<b>TOTAL BUDGET SPEND</b>	<b>£22,770,193</b>	<b>£19,990,173</b>	<b>£2,532,353</b>	
High Needs Block	£19,594,046	£19,414,874		
Central Schools Block	£864,070			
Transfer from Schools Block		£55,218		
Transfer from Early Years Block	£58,751	£520,081		
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE</b>	<b>£20,516,867</b>	<b>£19,990,173</b>		
<b>SHORTFALL</b>	<b>£2,253,326</b>	<b>£0</b>		

# REPORT



**WARRINGTON**  
Borough Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Schools Forum	<b>Item:</b>	6 (ii)
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 26 June 2018	<b>For:</b>	Information/Decision
<b>Title:</b>	SEND Improvement Programme		
<b>Author:</b>	Paula Worthington	<b>Presenter:</b>	Hilary Smith

## 1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Schools Forum with an update on the progress made against the plan to address the increasing demand for Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans which have been put in place to support the local authority and school leaders realise a long term sustainable financial position.

## 2.0 NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

2.1 The crisis in high needs funding is a national issue and as such the Education Select Committee has launched an inquiry into the support for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). This has followed extensive media coverage of the pressures facing all local authorities as they struggle to meet the needs of pupils with SEND within the constraints of the current funding allocations from central Government.

2.2 The Committee has launched a call for written evidence to be submitted by Thursday 14 June 2018 on the following key issues:

- The level and distribution of funding for SEND provision
- Assessment of and support for children and young people with SEND
- The transition from statements of special educational needs and Learning Disability Assessments to EHC Plans
- The roles of and cooperation between education, health and social care sectors

- Provision for 19-25-year olds including support for independent living; transition to adult services; and access to education, apprenticeships and work.

2.3 Regionally, most local authorities in the North West are reviewing the spend against the High Needs Block and ten local authorities (including Warrington) have shared their financial arrangements for supporting EHC Plans. This is attached as Appendix 1 for Schools Forum to note the different approaches and top-up funding levels applied across the region. This information will be further evaluated by the new Finance work-stream which is being established as part of the SEND Improvement Programme.

### **3.0 LOCAL CONTEXT**

3.1 At the Annual Conversation between OFSTED and the local authority on Monday 12 March 2018 senior officers were challenged about 'how strong the identification of pupils with SEND in Warrington was given the low number of SEN support pupils'. The suggestion was that identification of children and young people with SEND could be an issue in Warrington.

3.2 Schools Forum have received a number of reports providing an overview of the key performance issues in relation to demand for EHC Plans all of which relate to the identification of SEND and these are summarised below:

- Overall the number of pupils with special educational needs had fallen in Warrington from 5,910 in January 2011 to 3,947 in January 2017 (combined number of children and young people on SEN Support and with EHC Plans). This is largely a result of the decline in pupils categorised as 'SEN support' which has reduced from 4,913 in 2011 to 2,806 in 2017.
- Based on the performance of our statistical neighbours, the regional and national average our assumption is that too few pupils are being identified as requiring SEN support.
- In contrast the number and rate of children and young people with a Statement or EHC Plan attending a Warrington school has continued to increase - as of January 2017, 3.5% of Warrington pupils had a Statement or EHC Plan, which equates to 203 more pupils than the national average.
- The number of EHC Plans maintained by the local authority continues to rise and as of 7 June 2018 there were 1,665 children and young people with SEND – this is an increase of 72% since January 2014.

3.3 The increase in Plans continues to have a detrimental impact on the High Needs Block and as noted in the 'Dedicated Schools Grant Outturn Position 2017/18' report presented to Schools Forum today (26 June 2018), this has resulted in an overspend in 2017/18 of £1,287,055.

## **4.0 IMPROVEMENT PLANS**

- 4.1 A plan was developed and shared with Schools Forum on the 5 December 2017, which detailed the priority areas for development. The SEN Review Board (previously known as Warrington Inclusion Hub) have been charged with driving the changes required within a robust programme management framework. Updates on progress against the plan is summarised below.

### **Priority 1: Financial approvals and authorisation**

The financial authorisation process has been revised in line with the Council Financial Procedure Rules which ensures agreement is sought from the relevant Assistant Director for placements which involve an education recharge. The actions relating to this priority are now complete.

### **Priority 2: Performance information**

At the performance meeting on the 17 May 2018 between local authority officers and school representatives it was agreed to develop a data dashboard and suite of reports that can support schools to identify performance strengths and areas for development. It was also agreed to use Directors Briefing as a forum to explore relevant performance information as well as to potentially direct Peer Review priorities and school visits.

### **Priority 3: Service Documentation**

The Short Breaks Statement, SEND Strategy and Graduated Response Document and Top-up Banding Levels have now been finalised. The actions relating to this priority are now complete.

### **Priority 4: Gatekeeping processes for EHCP and threshold for support to be strengthened**

The Terms of Reference for the SEND Panels – Referral and Resource and Placement and Provision – have been refreshed and the Head of Education now Chairs both Panels. Key representatives from Health and Children’s Social Care will also be attending the Panels going forward to ensure multi-disciplinary conversations around the needs of the child/young person.

### **Priority 5: Revisit the ASD Free School proposal in line with a review of overall provision in the area linked to the recently released SEN capital funding announcements**

Work has been completed to secure additional funding for specialist school places and the Special Provision Plan had been consulted on and published. The additional funding allocation over the next three years is £640,842 with the first allocation expected in July 2018 which will be used to fund KS3/4 SEMH provision.

Two multi-academy trusts have expressed an interest in hosting the ASD Special School at KS2 to KS4 (approximately 56 places) and they have both been invited to the selection process to present their vision and plans for the school. A decision is hoped to be reached by the end of the summer term 2018 on a preferred provider.

**Priority 6: Review the commissioning arrangements for short breaks**

Commissioning arrangements for short breaks have been reviewed and this action is now complete.

**Priority 7: SEND transport**

The mainstream and SEN transport budgets have been disaggregated to ensure that the local authority can accurately report on the budget pressure within SEN and work is underway to align the SEND transport allocation and EHCP processes to reduce the current burden on the transport budget and to manage parental expectation.

**Priority 8: Undertake strategic conversations with providers re: uplifts they have imposed**

Conversations have taken place with providers regarding the proposed uplifts to contracts which resulted in a reduction from 10% to 3%. The actions relating to this priority are now complete.

**Priority 9: Undertake a strategic conversation with Health in relation to Turnaround and potential implications for Continuing Health Care assessments and the current 50/50 contribution arrangement**

Warrington CCG and the local authority continue to work together to support children and young people with SEND and discussions are ongoing regarding funding arrangements.

**Priority 10: Internal review**

Warrington Borough Council's internal audit have reviewed Integrated Services and the financial procedures strengthened as set out in Priority 1.

**Priority 11: Review Integrated Services**

Following the departure of the Head of Service, the Virtual Headteacher for children in care now manages the EHC team and has strengthened the audit process to improve the quality of EHC Plans. Additionally, a new review process has been established to ensure that EHC coordinators attend annual reviews.



### **Priority 12: Safeguarding practice**

All children with disabilities, focusing on the child protection cases first are now being audited on a monthly basis to improve the quality of practice.

### **Priority 13: Demand Management Programme**

Warrington was one of seven local authorities selected to take part in Phase 3 of their Behavioural Insights Programme to explore and address parental behaviours which may be driving the increasing demand for EHC Plans.

iMPower were commissioned as experts in behavioural science to review our data and intelligence, consult with key personnel including school staff and local authority officer and propose interventions which may enable the local authority to ensure that the right children and young people have an EHC Plan in line with thresholds for support.

iMPower have proposed trial interventions around the SEND Panels which are to be implemented from the 6 June 2018.

The financial case has been established (see attached Appendix 2). Over the next five years it is expected that the project will result in savings of £1.4 million - with £158,717 expected to be realised in year one.

### **Priority 14: Pilot new approach to triaging and assessing children and young people**

This work has been completed as part of the Demand Management Programme.

## **5.0 FINANCIAL CHALLENGES in 2018/19**

5.1 Whilst the deficit in 2017/18 was absorbed by the local authority, going forward the local authority and school leaders need to work to ensure that our costs are as low as possible.

5.2 For 2018/19, the initial projection is that the High Needs Block will be overspent by £2.2 million. With this in mind, a new Finance work-stream will be established (as referenced in paragraph 2.3) to investigate responses to our biggest areas of spend around:

- Independent School Fees
- Top-up arrangements
- Post 16 provision.

5.3 Following the performance meeting on the 17 May 2018 (see paragraph 4.1 – Priority 2) a breakdown of High Needs funding was requested and in response the local authority has re-established the finance work-stream of the Improvement Programme. An initial meeting has been arranged for 12 July 2018

so that Schools Forum can identify appropriate representatives from primary and secondary schools across mainstream and specialist provisions (in addition to the initial volunteers received at the performance meeting – Paul King, Craig Burgess and Lucinda Duffy).

## **6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 Schools Forum is asked to:

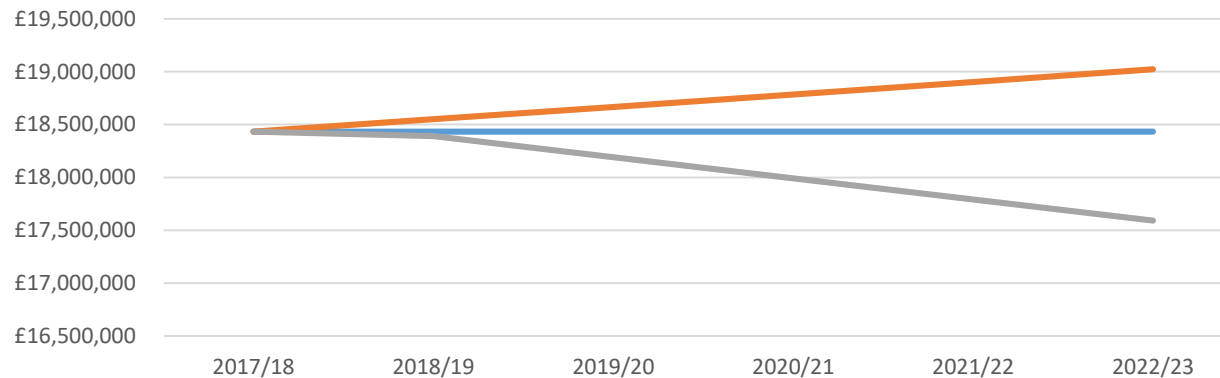
- a) Note that the SEN Review Board is driving the change programme for SEND.
- b) Note the different approaches and top-up funding levels applied across the region (see Appendix 1).
- c) Note that the projected overspend of £2.2 million in the High Needs Block for 2018/19 as of the end of period 1.
- d) Identify appropriate representatives to participate in the finance work stream to ensure coverage of primary and secondary, as well as mainstream and specialist provision.

**Appendix 1 – available on request**

# Financial Case – SEND Behavioural Insights

New EHCPs in 2017		206				
Total number of plans		1556				
Therefore the approximate turnover per year (assumes plan starts = plan ends)		13%				
Financial benefit by year of target reduction:		Fewer plans	Saving	Lower band	Saving	Total saving
50% in year 1 as still implementing		2018/19	11 £ 126,231		17 £ 32,486	£ 158,717
		2019/20	32 £ 378,694		51 £ 97,459	£ 476,152
		2020/21	53 £ 631,156		85 £ 162,431	£ 793,587
		2021/22	75 £ 883,618		120 £ 227,403	£ 1,111,022
		2022/23	96 £ 1,136,081		154 £ 292,376	£ 1,428,457

Do nothing vs Demand Management  
Cost of funded EHC Plans Projection



Projected budget saving of £1.4m by year 5