

REPORT TO: Schools Forum

DATE: 23 January 2017

REPORTING OFFICER: Senior Finance Officer, Financial Management Division

SUBJECT: Indicative DSG allocations for 2017-18

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To report to the School Forum the indicative Dedicated Schools Grant allocations for 2017-18.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Indicative funding allocations for 2017-18 were released by the Education Funding Agency on 20th December 2016.

	2017-18	2016-17
Schools Block allocation	£83.01M	£84.71M
Provisional Early Years allocation	£ 9.08M	£5.34M
High Needs Block allocation	£15.79M	£14.50M
Total	£107.87M	£104.54M

The changes to funding within each block are in part due to the revised baselines submitted for 2016-17, where each local authority had to declare how much DSG had been allocated to the three notional funding blocks. Although we were funded at a higher level for Schools Block in previous years, we were funded at much lower levels for the High Needs block and the Early Years Block.

The Early Years block has seen a further increase in funding in preparation for the 30 hours free entitlement that some parents/guardians will be entitled to from September 2017.

3.1 Schools Block

The number of pupils in Primary and Secondary schools has again risen, from 17,416 in 2015-16 to 17,669 – an increase of 253 pupils.

The Schools Block Unit of Funding (SBUF) per pupil is £4,697.95 which is a reduction of £165.82 per pupil from the 2016-17 level of £4,863.77.

Within the Schools Block allocation of £83.01M is £290k of former Education Services Grant funding. This equates to approximately £16.41 per pupil.

Therefore, without the additional funding for former ESG, our SBUF would be £4,681.54, or a reduction of £182.23.

Early Years Block

3.2

The allocation for the Early Years Block is provisional and the EFA are continuing to issue a mid-year adjustment based on data from the early years and school censuses. Final funding allocations for 2017-18 for the core 15hrs entitlement will be based on 5/12ths of the January 2017 child numbers and 7/12ths of the January 2018 child numbers, to acknowledge any in-year growth. The funding for the additional 15hrs entitlement will be based on the January 2018 child numbers.

High Needs Block

3.3

The High Needs Block allocation includes £1.7M which will be held back by the EFA to fund commissioned places in Non-Maintained Special Schools. Therefore, we will receive £14.08M of High Needs funding for 2017-18.

Centrally Retained DSG budgets

3.4

Due to the lateness of the release of the funding allocations, details of the centrally retained DSG budgets are still being finalised and will be tabled at the meeting.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None

5.0 **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None