

REPORT TO: Schools Forum

DATE: 13 June 2018

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director – Education, Inclusion and Provision

SUBJECT: Central Budgets

WARD Borough- wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report seeks to provide a summary of the central budgets for included in the Central School Services Block, Early Years Block and High Needs Block.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Forum note the report.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 At the School Forum meeting on 21st March 2018 a request was to see the total budgets centrally figure for each of the four blocks. Funding is centrally managed for three of the blocks; the Central School Services Block, Early Years Block and High Needs Block. A summary is provided below for each block.

Central School Services Block	Budget	Comment
Safeguarding	47,100	Contribution to Safeguarding Post
Teachers Panel	19,460	Trade Union Support
Licences	98,550	Paid by the EFSA on behalf of schools & recharged
ESG Retained Duties (all school)		(statutory responsibilities DSG funded)
Staffing and Recharges for Strategic Responsibilities	277,762	0.25 of Strategic Director, 0.3 of Operational Director, 10% of DM Place Planning and Provision, 5% of School Improvement Lead for SACRE and £6440 contribution to the officer dealing with Complaints)
ESG General Duties		(maintained schools only)
Staffing	55,683	Capital Officer plus Finance support of 0.5, 0.5% Finance
Health and Safety	114,000	
De-delegated budgets		(maintained schools only)
Dismissal	127,000	

FSM eligibility	6520	Free School Meal eligibility
Contingency	198,780	
Staff Responsibility	25,470	Public Duties, suspension etc

3.2 It has been agreed that the costs of previously agreed premature retirements be funded from the central carry forward contingency for 2018/2019.

Early Years Centrally Retained Block	Budget	Comment
Staffing and Supplies and Services Costs	153,730	3 early years team members covering Safeguarding and Welfare, Training and Support Finances and sufficiency plus supplies and Services
Premises Costs	24,210	
Transport	3,000	
Contribution to Early Intervention	50,000	contribution to 2 members of staff
Contribution to Capital Support	5,000	
Total	235,940	
Support for 2 Years Old	44,250	1 member of staff plus supplies and services

3.3 No more than 5% can be centrally retained by the Local Authority in terms of Early Years.

High Needs Central Spend Block	Budget	Comment
Assessment and Provision Services	385,960	Divisional Manager Inclusion and Assessment Manager and 6 FTE Assessment Co-ordinators plus resources
Sensory Services	299,990	7 specialist staff covering Visual Impairment & Hearing Impairment plus resources
Cognition and Learning Service	115,720	2 specialist staff plus resources
Communication and Interaction	206,350	3 specialist plus resources plus SLA with Brookfields School
Home Tuition	283,500	1 specialist plus casual home tutors and premises costs and resources
Psychology Service	86,400	Covers 1 FTE from the team plus resources
Commissioning Manager	50,770	approved by School Forum
Independent School Fees	2,412,450	
Inter Authority Fees	175,000	
Post- 16 High Needs	769,000	includes top up funding for Riverside College and other independent post-16 providers
Specialist Equipment	20,000	equipment for specialist equipment in special schools

Top Up Funding	1,000,000	includes top up for EHCP & Discretionary top up
Behaviour Support Team	255,870	
Total	6,061,010	

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The carry forward has been used to fund the ongoing costs of the premature retirement of school staff in 2018/2019. The initial estimate of £260,000 continues to decrease annually. It is unlikely there will be sufficient carry forward to meet these costs in future years.
- 4.2 The schools contingency budget is only available for maintained schools. Over the last few years there has been an increase in the number of schools applying for financial support. This places pressure on this budget.
- 4.3 Numbers of children and young people placed in independent and other Local Authority provision remains high and in many cases very expensive.
- 4.4 There is limited funding available for discretionary top up funding.

5.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 5.1 There is insufficient funding to meet the costs of ongoing premature retirements. A review of funding is undertaken to identify alternative funding sources for 2019 onwards.
- 5.2 Although there has been an increase in schools experiencing financial difficulty in 2018/2019, the DFE have advised that there will be additional funding available to Halton as part of the transition to the National Funding Formula in 2019/2010.
- 5.3 The role of the dedicated SEND Commissioner will be to reduce the costs and the level of independent placements. The independent review of SEND will identify current and future need and how best this need can be met within the resources available.

6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 6.1 The Local Authority must discharge its statutory responsibilities in relation to all schools and settings.

7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPES UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

- 7.1 None.