24-25 HN report

High Needs Budget (DSG) proposals 2024-25

17/01/2024

**Executive Summary**

This report sets out the High Needs Block strategy for the financial year 2024-25

**Details of recommendations and timescales for decisions:**

Schools Forum are asked to note the report.

1. **Background**
   1. The Dedicated schools Grant allocations for 3 blocks were announced on the 19 December 2023 including the High Needs block. Minor adjustments for import & export of in/out borough placements will be updated in 2024:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DSG before academy recoupment** | 2023-24 £s | 2024-25 £s | Increase | % |
| High needs block (HNB) | 82,471,653 | 85,992,740 | 3,521,087 | 4% |

1. **Main points for 2024-25**
   1. High Needs Block Budget announced to date indicates an increase of 4%
   2. We will increase the Special Schools budgets (and AP) in line with overall increase of HN, freezing all the other bandings pending a banding review which has been identified as part of the DBV programme, currently increased volumes are expected to far exceed the 4% increase.  Not necessarily a reduction but identified LBTH rates particularly high at entry level banding so expecting to be more of a rebalancing and looking at Early intervention without an EHCP.
   3. High Needs working group to be put in place to have representatives to support the roll out of the DBV review work and the DSG Management recovery plan. Once management recovery plan is completed this will be shared with Forum
   4. The HN deficit was reduced at the end of 2022-23, with a cumulative deficit of - £13 mill. carried into 2023-24. Expectations are to stay within budget or for a further small overspend for 2023 -24 as demand continues to rise.
   5. A currently forecasted expected overspend of £1.18m on Central spend in SEN support services for 23-24, These are costs associated with the assessment and management of plans as well as Transport are not charged to DSG and continue to be the major cause of overspend to the Council’s general fund.