



NOTICE OF MEETING

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER 2020 AT 4PM

VIRTUAL REMOTE MEETING

Telephone enquiries to Lisa Gallacher 02392 834056
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Membership

Councillor Suzy Horton (Cabinet Member)

Councillor Terry Norton
Councillor Jeanette Smith

Councillor Judith Smyth

(NB This agenda should be retained for future reference with the minutes of this meeting).

Please note that the agenda, minutes and non-exempt reports are available to view online on the Portsmouth City Council website: www.portsmouth.gov.uk

Deputations.

A written deputation stating to which agenda item it refers must be received by the officer named at the top of the agenda **by 12 noon two working days preceding the meeting**. Any written deputation received by email will be sent to the members on the relevant decision making body and be referred to and read out at the meeting within permitted time limits.

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies for absence**
- 2 Declaration of Interests**
- 3 Update to Foster Carer Adaptions Policy (Pages 7 - 18)**

Purpose

To seek approval from the Cabinet member for Children and Families to update the existing policy at appendix A to provide financial support to carers

generating increase in placements.

RECOMMENDED

1. That the Cabinet Member for Children and Families approves the amendments to the policy to provide financial support to carers who meet the requirements as laid out in the policy at appendix A.
2. That the Cabinet Member for Children and Families gives delegated authority to the Director of Children, Families and Education to approve individual business cases in line with finance rules.
3. That going forwards the foster carer adaptation policy be referred to as the carer adaptation policy, covering all carers within Portsmouth.

4 Children Families and Education Portfolio Budget Monitoring Report for the Financial Year End 2019-20 (Pages 19 - 30)

Purpose

To inform the Cabinet Member of the revenue expenditure position in respect of the portfolio cash limit and capital programme for the financial year 2019/20. This report sets out the budget position and contributing factors to the final portfolio cash limit overspend at the end of the year together with an initial revenue projection for 2020/21.

RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet Member:

- (1) Notes the Children, Families and Education Portfolio financial outturn position for 2019/20 of £3.3m in excess of the approved cash limit provision.
- (2) Notes the ongoing budget pressures within the portfolio, as highlighted in the report.
- (3) Notes the position in respect of the approved capital schemes for the portfolio.

5 Children Families and Education Portfolio Budget Monitoring Report for the First Quarter 2020-21 (Pages 31 - 40)

Purpose

To inform the Cabinet Member of the projected revenue expenditure within the portfolio cash limit and capital programme for the current financial year 2020-21. This report sets out the budget position and contributing factors to the projected spend within the portfolio as at the end of June 2020.

RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet Member notes the Children, Families and Education Portfolio forecast revenue and capital budget positions, as at the end of June 2020, together with the variance and pressure explanations.

6 2019-20 Dedicated Schools Grant Outturn Report (Pages 41 - 50)

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform the Cabinet Member of the year-end outturn position as at the end of March 2020 for the Dedicated Schools Grant

(DSG).

RECOMMENDED the Cabinet Member notes the year-end outturn budget position for the Dedicated Schools Grant as at the end of March 2020 and the variance explanations contained within this report.

7 Dedicated Schools Grant 2020-21 Quarter 1 budget monitoring and budget revision (Pages 51 - 62)

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform the Cabinet member of the projected revenue expenditure of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the current financial year 2020-21 as at the end of June 2020.

RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet Member:

- (1) Notes the forecast year-end budget position for the Dedicated Schools Grant as at 30 June 2020, together with the associated explanations contained within this report.**
- (2) Approves the revisions to the 2020-21 budget as set out in Appendix 1 and section 4.**

8 Maintained School balances as at 31 March 2020 (Pages 63 - 76)

Purpose

To inform the Cabinet Member of the level of maintained schools' revenue and capital balances as at 31st March 2020.

RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet Member notes the level of maintained schools' revenue balances and capital balances as at 31st March 2020 as shown in Appendices 2 & 3 and the monitoring action taken by the council.

9 School funding arrangements 2021-22 (Pages 77 - 90)

Purpose

To provide the Cabinet Member with an update on the latest developments in respect of the future school revenue funding arrangements for the financial year 2021-22 onwards.

RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet Member:

- (1) Note the Department for Education's proposed changes to school revenue funding arrangements for 2021-22 as set out in this report.**
- (2) Approve the proposals for implementing the local funding formula arrangements as set out in this report; in particular to:**
 - Implement the National Funding Formula rates for both primary and secondary schools in 2021-22, as set out in Appendix 1;**
 - Implement a minimum funding guarantee (MFG) of at least +0.5%**

and up to +2.0% subject to affordability, for 2021-22 as set out in paragraphs 5.16

- The method of managing affordability as set out in paragraph 5.17.
- Implement the disapplication request as set out in section 6.

10 Annual Adoption Agency Activity Report March 2020 (Pages 91 - 102)

Purpose

The previous report was presented March 2020. This report will update the Lead Member on Portsmouth Adoption Service activity for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

11 Amalgamation of Wimborne Infant and Junior Schools - reporting back of the SO58 decision of 25 March 2020 (Pages 103 - 104)

Members to note the Standing Order 58 urgent decision made by the Chief Executive on 25 March 2020.

Title of meeting: Children and Families Cabinet

Date of meeting: 1st October 2020

Subject: Update to Foster Carer Adaptions Policy

Report by: Alison Smart, Business Partner to Children and Families Services

Wards affected: All

Key decision: ~~Yes~~/No

Full Council decision: ~~Yes~~/No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek approval from the Cabinet member for Children and Families to update and rename the existing policy at appendix A to provide financial support to carers generating increase in placements.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Member for Children and Families approves the amendments to the policy to provide financial support to carers who meet the requirements as laid out in the policy at appendix A.
- 2.2 That the Cabinet Member for Children and Families gives delegated authority to the Director of Children, Families and Education to approve individual business cases in line with finance rules.
- 2.3 That going forwards the foster carer adaptation policy be referred to as the carer adaptation policy, covering all carers within Portsmouth.

3. Background

- 3.1 In June 2019 Children and Families Cabinet agreed the creation of a new policy to support adaptations to carers' homes to secure long term placements for children and/or to increase the number of placements with existing carers.
- 3.2 In April 2020 there was a successful capital bid to support the policy.
- 3.3 Following the approval of this policy a working group was set up to look at the expressions of interests and to make formal decision to take them forward.
- 3.4 The working group felt the financial contribution needed to be capped at £50,000 each, allowing for a greater number of placements to be supported by the council.

3.5 The group also felt that the accompanying financial appraisal should demonstrate payback/equivalent savings of the sum invested within 2 years.

3.6 Both of these changes are reflected in the updated policy.

4. Reasons for recommendations

4.1 The updated policy will give better financial security to CFE.

4.2 The updated policy will detail the process to follow for social workers, enabling a better understanding as to whether Portsmouth City Council is able to support families.

4.3 The mental, emotional and physical wellbeing of the city's looked after children is paramount and by enabling them to stay together with siblings or to remain with a family in the long term, we will continue to support the wellbeing of the child.

4.4 The policy and Financial Assistance Agreement detailing the circumstances and repayment due to Portsmouth City Council remain the same should the carers default and the loan become repayable.

5. Integrated impact assessment

5.1 A new IIA is not required for this decision. The previous Preliminary Equality Impact Assessment showed no adverse equality implications were identified

6. Legal implications

6.1 The Children Act 1889 would allow the Local Authority to advance payments with regard the promotion of the welfare of a child (sec17, sec 20 and by reason of a applicable powers with respect to say a Care Order or a Special Guardianship Order). These statutory powers are additional to any power under the Localism Act 2011 with respect to a general power of competence to do as proposed within the report. The policy and report gives adequate protection for advanced payments for recoupment within an initial 5 year period based upon agreement default being the trigger, advance would be subject to loan to value enabling the PCC advance to be secured if necessary by way of legal charge upon the recipients' home.

7. Director of Finance's comments

7.1 The Adaptation of Homes Policy for foster families will provide a fair and consistent framework for allocating capital funding from within the approved capital programme to foster carers.

- 7.2 Each request will be subject to a financial appraisal and will only progress if the capital cost can be offset by equivalent revenue savings or costs avoided over the following two years.
- 7.3. The Section 151 Officer, or his representative, in consultation with the Director of Children's Services, will have delegated authority to approve schemes up to a value of £50,000. Schemes above that value will require consultation with and the approval of the Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Children's Services Portfolio.
- 7.4 Schemes can only be approved if sufficient funding is available within the approved capital programme.

.....
Signed by:

Appendices: A - Updated Adaptation of Homes Policy for Families Policy

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/
rejected by on

.....
Signed by:

PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL - CHILDREN & FAMILIES SERVICES

Document title	Portsmouth City Council Adaptation of Homes Policy for Carer Families and Special guardianship (assessed by PCC)
Document description	This policy sets out the criteria for the provision for funding for Local Authority r carers and special guardianship(as assessed by PCC) to extend or convert their homes in order to offer a wider range or number of placements to Portsmouth children in care or a permanent placement for a specific child.
Document date	June 2019

Principles

- Wherever possible children should be able to live in a stable family-based setting for the duration of their childhood with any siblings, and placement moves should be minimal.
- To be equitable regardless of placement type,
- To use public funds responsibly and fairly.
- To be fair and transparent.

Framework of the policy

To provide financial support towards property enhancements that facilitates the continual or new placement of PCC children in suitable care.

To provide extra capacity for existing PCC carers that may avoid what would otherwise be a more expensive alternative placement.

The expansion of accommodation in homes of qualifying carer households. (Including increasing the number of placements offered by any one household)

To retain an existing placement where the property is deemed unfit or unsuitable for long-term provision.

To secure long term/permanent placements for specific children.

To secure permanence for sibling groups.

To meet the needs of children with disabilities.

To meet health and safety requirements, which otherwise might result in a child/children being moved.

Subject to finance availability.

Scope of the policy

The policy covers all requests for home extensions and adaptations for Portsmouth City Council carers/special guardianship who own their own home (via a mortgage or outright ownership).

This policy does not cover families who rent their property.

This policy sits alongside the existing process for specific adaptations for disabled children via Private Sector Housing, Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) process.

Payments made by the council are discretionary and not an entitlement. The decision of the Council is final and there is no process for appeal.

Financial contributions for extensions/adaptations may result in the council placing a legal mortgage on the carer's property. Carers must be made aware of this at the outset of any discussions, as their current lender may not consent to a second mortgage being secured on the property.

Should the loan be greater than £20,000 as part of the approval process the council will assess whether there is sufficient equity in the property (taking account of any existing mortgage) to cover the cost of the loan.

Criteria

- Carers must be approved by Portsmouth City Council's Fostering Panel for the current or proposed placement(s).

- Carers must have at least 1 year post approval experience with no safeguarding or standard of care issues.
- Exceptions relating to Special Guardianship placements will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Carers must have the skill set and capacity to care for a specific child(ren).
- Carers must be homeowners.
- This meets requirements of the child's care plan.
- This would provide a long term/permanent placement not otherwise possible.
- To support building adaptations for extra living space, bedroom, and/or specialist furniture/equipment to be used.

Conditions

Should, for any reason, this placement availability be withdrawn by the carer within a period of 5 years following the provision of funds the carer will be liable to repay a proportion of the grant received to the Council as follows :

- 1st years 100% repayable
- 2nd year 80% repayable
- 3rd year 60% repayable
- 4th year 40% repayable
- 5th year 20% repayable.

A business case will accompany each request for funding, delegation is given to the Finance Manager Children and Families Services to approve, authorisation will also be required from the Director of Children, Families and Education.

The business case must demonstrate that all other funding sources have been explored.

The accompanying financial appraisal should demonstrate payback/equivalent savings of the sum invested within 2 years.

Process

- Supervising social worker has the initial discussion with carers, detailing what relevant information may be required and completes an expression of interest form. (EOI)
- Decision of request meets the eligibility criteria. (to be agreed by Team Leader)
- Service Leader approval to agree progression to formal application (this does not guarantee final approval).
- Application form is completed by the supervising social worker with input from the child(rens) social worker.
- Supervising social workers shall not make any commitment to carers that funding will be approved and should advise foster carer to consider all other viable options.
- Completed application and all accompanying documentation should be passed to Head of Looked after Children for signed endorsement.
- Once signed, the application is passed to the Business Partner for Children & Families Services, Housing, Neighbourhood & Building Directorate.
- On receipt of a completed application the Business Partner within Housing, Neighbourhood & Building Directorate.

will complete the following;

- Housing, Neighbourhood & Building Directorate to quote for work if applicable.
- Housing, Neighbourhood & Building Directorate Surveyor to contact the family via the Social Worker for any visit, if applicable.
- Once the cost of the work is established the family must confirm they wish to proceed, if the work is in excess of £20,000 the family must provide a letter from their mortgage company if applicable detailing the current outstanding mortgage, approval for the works to be

undertaken and confirmation of a second mortgage on the property, the carer will also provide an up to date valuation of their property.

- On receipt of the above confirmation the Business partner will build business case for approval. This will include costs, management fee and time scale.
- On completion business partner will present the case to the Director and Finance Manager of Children, Families and Education Service.
- The outcome is to be detailed to the carer in writing by the Service Lead.
- If the loan is over £20,000 the family are to instruct their own solicitor at their cost to advise on the form of mortgage, the financial agreement contract and the building contract provided by Portsmouth City Council Legal Services.
- Once these documents are signed, dated and received by Legal Services the works can commence.

Decision making

There is some expectation that carers make a contribution to the cost of the adaptation, where possible,

Examples of this - Monetary contribution

Paying for carpets or decoration by a 3rd party

Completion the internal decorations by carer family

Amounts up to £20,000 - If Yes

- Financial assistance agreement and building agreement sent to carers
- Once signed work can proceed
- Finance informed.

If No

- Letter to carers with reason why

- Decision logged on client record system

Amounts over £20,000 and below £50,000-

If Yes

- A legal mortgage will be registered against the property.
- Financial assistance agreement, building agreement and mortgage sent to family
- Family to instruct solicitor
- Once signed, work can proceed
- Finance informed.

Approval

All applications for funding will require approval by the Director of Children, Families and Education and the Section 151 Officer (or his delegated representative (as per the Financial Rules part 1 - 4))

Carers sign up to legally binding agreement.

Legal charge on property for 5 years.

If No

- Letter to carers with reason why
- Decision logged on client record system

Amounts over £50,000

In addition to the requirements set out above, amounts over £50,000 will require the signed approval of the Cabinet Member for Children and Families.

Payments

Should Housing, Neighbourhood and Buildings Services are carrying out the work, the charge will be via an internal transfer between Children, Families and Education and Housing Neighbourhood and Buildings Services. This includes a 15% management fee to complete the work and all associated fees.

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Agenda Item 4



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

Title of Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education
Date of meeting:	1st October 2020
Subject:	Children, Families and Education Portfolio Budget Monitoring Report for the Financial Year End 2019/20
Report from:	Chris Ward, Director of Finance and Resources, Section 151 Officer and Alison Jeffery, Director of Children, Families and Education
Wards affected:	All
Key decision:	No
Budget & policy framework decision:	No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To inform the Cabinet Member of the revenue expenditure position in respect of the portfolio cash limit and capital programme for the financial year 2019/20. This report sets out the budget position and contributing factors to the final portfolio cash limit overspend at the end of the year together with an initial revenue projection for 2020/21.

2. Summary

- 2.1. The Children, Families and Education portfolio was formed in May 2020 and this report brings together the financial position of the amalgamated portfolios. The revenue outturn position for the newly formed portfolio was an overspend of £3.3m.
- 2.2. Following overspend positions in the now decommissioned Children and Families Portfolio in the previous six years, and an initial projected financial pressure of around £1.9m on the budget for this year, the portfolio finished the year with a revenue overspend on its cash limit of £3.2m.
- 2.3. The now decommissioned Education Portfolio finished the year with an overspend of £0.1m, which included an underspend of £0.1m within the Early Help and Prevention service.
- 2.4. The key drivers of the overspend within the Children and Families service have been the placement numbers and costs, particularly in external residential requirements, which has been identified in the financial monitoring reports during the year.
- 2.5. The Education service has seen a continuing pressure within the Home to School Transport service with this being the main area of overspend.

- 2.6. The Children and Families capital programme stayed within budget in 2019/20. The Education capital programme is forecasting an overspend of £0.2m on a budget of £88.7m, arrangements to adjust spending patterns and realign budgets are currently being considered to keep this within the overall budget.

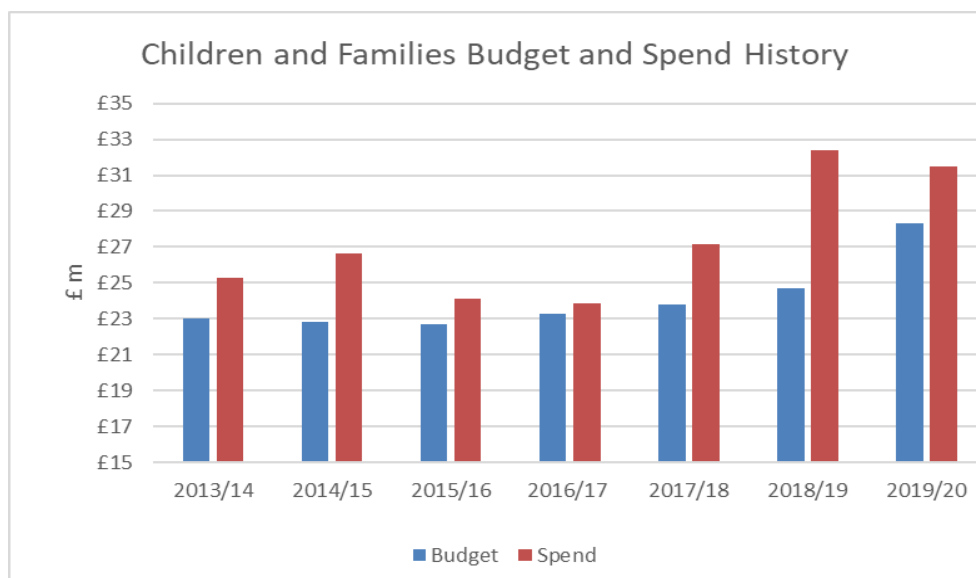
3 Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet Member:

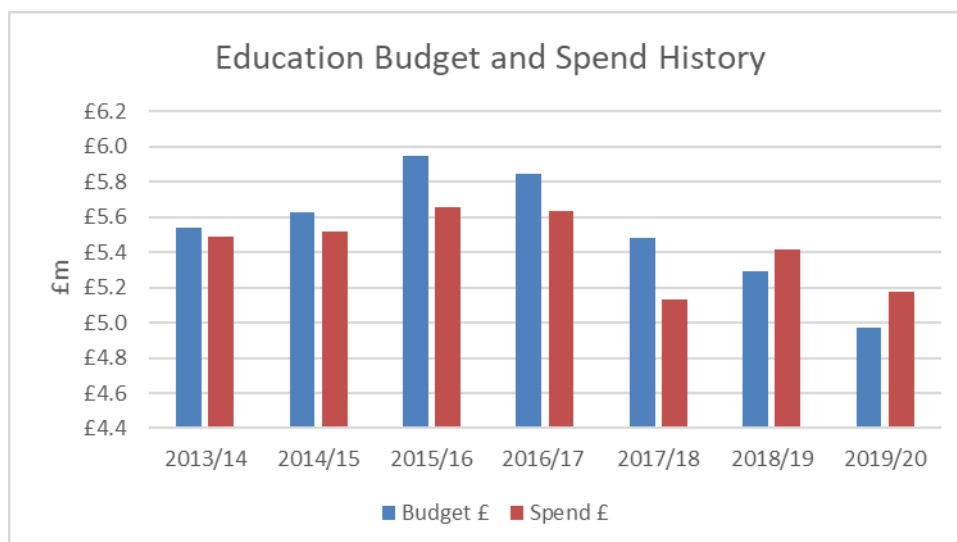
- 3.1.1 Notes the Children, Families and Education Portfolio financial outturn position for 2019/20 of £3.3m in excess of the approved cash limit provision.
- 3.1.2 Notes the ongoing budget pressures within the portfolio, as highlighted in the report.
- 3.1.3 Notes the position in respect of the approved capital schemes for the portfolio.

4 Background

- 4.1 Expenditure on Children and Families has exceeded the budget provision for each of the last seven years. Under the approved financial arrangements, an overspend is carried forward by the portfolio in the following financial year, since portfolios are expected to manage their financial resources across financial years in order to encourage medium term operational and financial planning. However, the overspends in this portfolio from prior years have been subsumed corporately, recognising the pressures already being placed on the portfolio at the beginning of each year and providing a clean starting point for the portfolio.
- 4.2 After a £7.5m overspend in 2018/19, an additional £4m was added to the Children's Social Care Budget in 2019/20, recognising the financial impact of the sustained rise of Looked After Children (LAC) over the last six years.



- 4.3 From 2013/14 until 2017/18 the Education portfolio reported an underspend and in recent years held a small portfolio reserve. However overspends in 2018/19 and 2019/20 as a result of reducing budgets and increased demands on the service have exhausted any portfolio reserve.



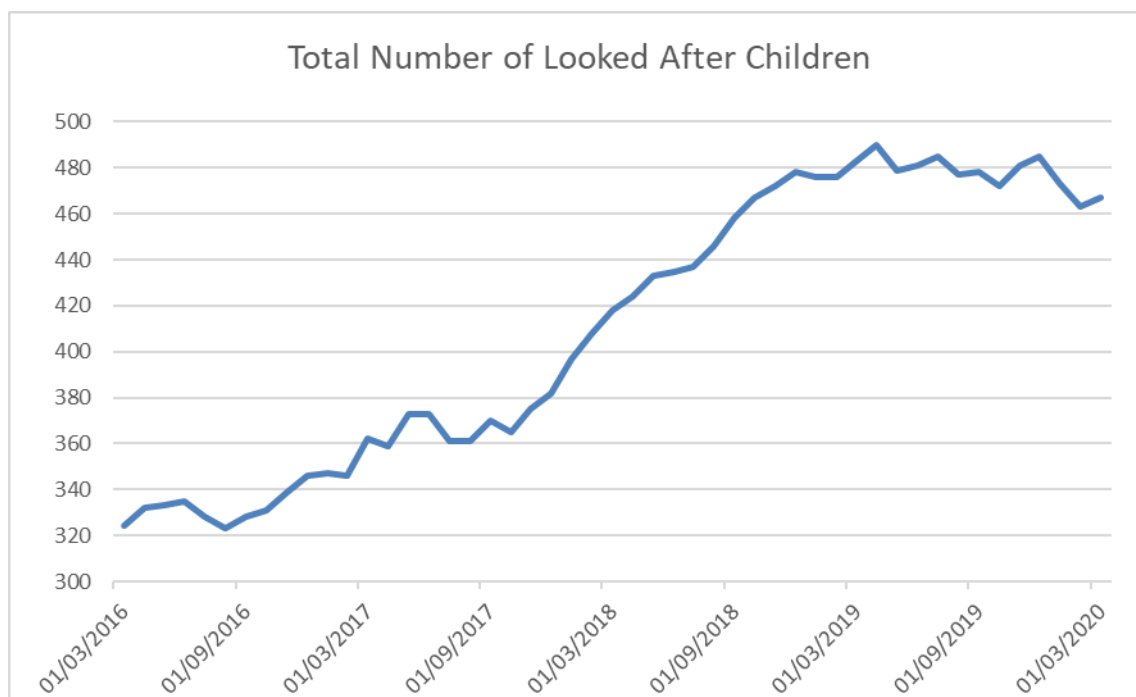
The table above excludes Early Help and ignores any budget movements for any DSG adjustments.

5 Summary Position against Cash Limited Budget at the end of 2019/20

- 5.1 The combined portfolio had a net spend of £36.6m producing an overspend of £3.3m as identified in the table below.

Service Area	2019/20 Budget £000	2019/20 Spend £000	Variance £000
Management, Sufficiency & Resources	594	494	(100)
Head of School Improvement	352	290	(62)
Head of Inclusion	4,026	4,395	369
Early Help & Prevention	20	(87)	(107)
Education Total	4,992	5,092	100
Assessment & Intervention	5,326	5,406	80
Looked After Children	19,423	22,301	2,878
Commissioning & Performance	140	140	0
Safeguarding & Monitoring	881	1,042	161
Support Activities	2,914	2,969	55
Edge of Care Support Service	569	547	(22)
Troubled Families	(900)	(900)	0
Children and Families Total	28,353	31,505	3,152
TOTAL COMBINED PORTFOLIO	33,345	36,597	3,252

- 5.2 Whilst this encompasses variations across the service areas as outlined below in section 6, the most significant area of overspend relates to the cost of Looked After Children placements.
- 5.3 The total number of Looked After Children has stabilised over the last year from an increasing trend seen throughout 2017/18 and 2018/19.



- 5.4 The number and cost of external residential placements remains a significant driver with an overspend of £2.6m. This is due to having thirteen more external residential placements than budgeted.

6 Detailed variance explanations by service area

- 6.1 **Management Sufficiency and Resources** (£100,000 underspend): The underspend in this area is largely a result of a one-off transfer of pension strain costs to academy schools that PCC has been holding for a number of years.
- 6.2 **School Improvement** (£62,000 underspend): Additional income alongside underspends on operational costs within the School Improvement and Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (EMAS) have led to the service underspend.
- 6.3 **Inclusion** (£369,000 overspend): Home to school transport continued to produce budget pressures and eventually overspent by £334,000. Whilst numbers of children transported reduced slightly on the previous year average costs have increased. Further overspends in this area relates to Educational Psychology, and SEND services including tribunal & legal costs which have been partially offset by underspends within the school attendance team and various other services.
- 6.4 **Early Help and Prevention** (£107,000 underspend): The underspend largely relates to staffing vacancies during the year.

6.5 Assessment and Intervention Service (£80,000 overspend): The overspend is the result of higher than budgeted costs in relation to Children's Disability Team placements (£165,000), homeless families (£63,000), families with no recourse to public funds (£32,000) and other operational costs (£89,000). Staffing levels, which include the use of agency social workers and general staffing vacancies, have led to staffing costs £269,000 under budget.

6.6 Looked After Children (LAC) (£2,878,000 overspend): This covers five main areas - LAC placements & residential units, Unaccompanied Minor (UAM) placements, Adoption & Fostering, Care Leavers and staffing costs. There was an overspend on LAC placements of £2,689,000 as shown in the table below of which £2,566,000 relates to external residential placements. The number of children in external residential placements has been significantly above the budget provision for the last three years. The increase partly reflects the overall increase in numbers of looked after children in 2017/18 but also the increased threats to children, particularly around exploitation and the increased complexity of their needs. The use of external residential placements is not out of line with similar areas. The budget for external residential placements has been increased in 2020/21 to an average of 19 placements. The Director of Children, Families and Education and Deputy Director have introduced a process to review all high cost packages to ensure placements and placement costs are relevant and appropriate. It is acknowledged that whilst there is a need to ensure there is value for money the children in many of these placements have complex needs and present very challenging behaviour. In undertaking this exercise the safety or wellbeing of children will not be compromised.

6.6.1 The below table shows the budgets and actual spend for the different placement types, and how this compares to other years overall, with detailed information in Appendix 1.

March 2020	Budget			Actual Outturn			
Placement Type	Average	Av Unit Cost	Budget	Average No.s	Av Unit Cost	Outturn	Budget Pressure
	Nos	£	£	Nos	£	£	£
External Residential	11.95	207,593	2,479,900	27.56	183,087	5,045,879	2,565,979
Independent Fostering Agency (IFA)	40.45	49,575	2,005,400	37.65	48,567	1,828,539	-176,861
In-House Foster care	238.96	24,092	5,757,100	247.67	24,755	6,131,100	374,000
Adoption	54.00	9,009	486,500	53.08	9,099	483,002	-3,498
Residence Orders	19.80	5,071	100,400	10.92	5,318	58,058	-42,342
Special Guardianship	146.01	5,695	831,500	140.75	5,710	803,625	-27,875
TOTAL	513.50	22,708	11,660,800	517.63	27,723	14,350,203	2,689,403
2019/20 Day 1 Projection	514.04	22,899	11,771,000	534.25	25,650	13,703,270	1,932,270
2018/19 Outturn	425.35	20,250	8,613,100	523.28	26,666	13,953,722	5,340,622
2017/18 Outturn	408.60	20,386	8,329,750	501.33	23,711	11,892,530	3,562,780

The figures in the above table are subject to rounding and may not calculate exactly

Numbers for Adoption, Residence Orders and Special Guardianship only reflect those children for whom we pay financial support.

6.6.2 The secure placement budget underspent by £151,000 as there were no secure placements used throughout the whole of 2019/20.

- 6.6.3 Unaccompanied Minor (UAM) costs were £187,000 in excess of budget. A £537,000 underspend was shown against under 18 UAM placement costs as all the under 18 UAM grant is shown there. However the grant also covers support costs, which are shown within staffing. The UAM care leavers budget was overspent by £723,000, as the grant does not cover the full placement costs. The grant is also intended to cover support costs, which again are shown within staffing. The Home Office have announced that from the 1 April 2020 they are increasing the rates paid for care leavers from £200 to £240 per week alongside removing reduced rates for legacy cases and allowing Local Authorities to claim for the first 25 care leavers in their care. In addition the rate for the under 18 placements is increasing from £114 per day to £143 per day. This equates to an additional £1.2m of grant funding from the Home Office based on current numbers.
- 6.6.4 At the end of March 2020 there were 98 under 18 Unaccompanied Minor (UAM) placements compared with 43 at the end of March 2018. With the growth of under 18 UAM placements the pressure is now beginning to increase in the UAM care leavers budget as they turn 18.
- 6.6.5 The adoption service ended the year with an overspend of £220,000. This is largely due to the budget being reduced in anticipation of £50,000 savings from the introduction of the regional adoption agency, which were not realised, £60,000 related to the timing of inter-agency placements being made beforehand and high staffing costs (£46,000) and other operational costs (£58,000).
- 6.7 **Commissioning & Performance** (on budget): This is a newly formed service area encompassing the Portsmouth Safeguarding Children's Partnership which was on budget.
- 6.8 **Safeguarding & Monitoring** (£161,000 over spend): Staffing costs were £155,000 in excess of budget due to staffing pressures across the service. An additional independent reviewing officer was required in order to meet statutory duties for Looked After Children, as the previous staffing levels could not fulfil this. There was also the recruitment of an apprentice and additional one-off costs as the result of a restructure.
- 6.9 **Support Activities** (£55,000 overspend): There was an overspend of £141,000 on legal fees. This is partially a result of HM Courts and Tribunal Services identifying a backlog of payments due to them of which £58,000 related to prior financial years. This was largely offset by a one-off underspend on ICT costs as a result of the change to the new care management system.
- 6.10 **Edge of Care Services** (£21,000 underspend): The service faced a £50,000 pressure as it is funding the reunification work, which improves the outcomes of the children and young people, and reduces our Looked After Children numbers and costs, which are reported under the Looked After Children section. This was more than offset by a vacant posts within the Edge of Care and Youth Offending teams and an underspend on the remand strategy.

6.11 Troubled Families (on budget): The Troubled Families Programme finished the year with a 72% payment by results achieved which resulted in a carry forward of £1,026,000. This underspend has been carried forward to support the ongoing Troubled Families work and the directorate wide strategy identified in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

7 Capital

7.1 Attached at Appendix 2 is the current capital budget monitoring position in respect of all schemes in the capital programme for Education, which was approved by Council on 12 February 2019.

7.2 Current spending at £67.3m is some £21.4 below approved funding for the schemes identified, reflecting the longer term nature of capital spending. At this stage, however, the forecast is an overall breakeven against total approved funding of £88.7m. Any underspending arising from the Capital Programme which was funded from Corporate Capital Resources will be returned and be allocated through the Budget Process, ensuring that the Council are able to allocate capital funding through a competitive basis to the Council's highest priorities.

7.3 It should be noted that Council approved 2 years of funding for condition projects in February 2019, the forecast out turn includes committed projects of £0.931m for 2019-20 and £0.809m for 2020-21.

7.4 Comments related to the variations are noted on Appendix 2, and arrangements to re-align budgets and adjust spending plans are currently being considered.

7.5 The table shown below is the approved capital programme for Children and Families for 201-20, including payments made to the end of 2019/20. Funding for all schemes was approved by Council on 12 February 2019. Further approvals were granted to provide a Capital Grant regarding housing for a looked after child and an increase in funding due to the necessary delay to the case management implementation. Funding for both projects has been identified through transfers from underspent schemes, use of reserves and corporate contingency.

Scheme	Approved funding previous quarter	Actual expenditure to March 2020	Forecast spend	Variance to Budget
	£	£	£	£
Adaptions to Foster carer properties	195,000	108,300	184,800	-10,200
Capital Grant - Housing for Looked After Child	200,000	210,200	210,200	10,200
Children's Case Management software replacement	2,707,000	2,140,700	2,707,000	0
Tangier Road Children's Home	495,000	503,900	503,900	8,900
Beechside Children's Home	55,000	47,100	47,100	-7,900
E C Roberts - Refurbishment Loan	250,000	7,200	250,000	0
Enable and Improve Mobile Working	191,000	0	191,000	0
Total	4,093,000	3,017,400	4,094,000	1,000

- 7.6 Adaptations to Foster Carer properties relates to capital grants that assist in delivering foster placements. Each proposal is subject to a separate financial appraisal and approval arrangement. There has been one payment of £13,750 during the current financial year. A further request is currently progressing and it is anticipated that the grant will be fully spent by the end of the financial year
- 7.7 As mentioned in previous reports a grant was approved to provide suitable housing for a disabled looked after child. The budget is forecast to overspend and these costs have been covered through the transfer of funding from the Adaptions to Foster Carer Properties scheme as part of the 2020-21 capital programme approvals.
- 7.8 The new Children's Case Management system went live during March 2020, it is expected that post implementation costs will continue into 2020-21 but that the total cost of implementation will be within the budget allocation.
- 7.9 The Tangier Road and Beechside Children's Homes works have been completed, and are expected to be within budget however final transactions were outstanding at the end of March 2020.
- 7.10 The Enable and Improve Mobile Working Scheme was approved in the capital programme in February 2019, but was published in the wrong portfolio - this has now been corrected. No expenditure is expected on this scheme in 2019-20, as the project is expected to be considered in 2020-21 due to the delay in the Mosaic implementation.

8 2020/21 Revenue Financial Projection

- 8.1 The portfolio revenue budget is overspent by £3.3m, which can largely be attributed to placement costs as described in Section 6.6 of this report.
- 8.2 In the full council meeting on the 11th February 2020 the underlying pressures within the portfolio driven by increasing numbers of looked after children and pressure in home to school transport were recognised. As a result the Children and Families budgets for 2020/21 was increased by £3m and the Education budget increased by £0.4m.
- 8.3 The Medium Term Financial Strategy identifies the future demand and cost pressures facing the service. Strategies identified seek to manage this pressure in order to bring financial stability to the service.
- 8.4 At the time of writing, the financial impact of Covid-19 is uncertain. The implementation of the Mockingbird Family of Care Model has been delayed and the Adult Family Safeguarding work although in progress will have been impacted therefore delaying the impact of any savings. It is currently uncertain what the impact of the pandemic will have on new work coming into the service, and the impact on services such as Home to School Transport, numbers of Looked After Children and short breaks. There has also been a reduction in School Attendance Fine income, and income from trading with schools which is expected to put a

pressure on the Education budget. Work is ongoing with managers to identify these costs and also mitigating action where possible.

9 Integrated impact assessment

- 9.1 An integrated impact assessment is not required as the recommendations do not have a positive or negative impact on communities and safety, regeneration and culture, environment and public space or equality and diversity.

10 Legal comments

- 10.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from the recommendations set out in paragraphs 3.1.1 to 3.1.3 of this report.

11 Director of Finance comments

- 11.1 Financial comments are contained within the body of the report.

.....
Chris Ward, Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer

11.1.1 Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The information upon which this report has been based has been drawn from a variety of sources; however much of the information used is held in budget files prepared by the Children and Education Finance Team. Please contact Angela Mann, Finance Manager, if required.

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by the Cabinet Member on

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Signed by: Cabinet Member



Appendix 1

Historical LAC Placement Information

March 2018 Outturn	Budget			Actuals			
Placement Type	Average	Av Unit Cost	Budget	Average No.s	Av Unit Cost	Final Outturn	Budget Pressure
	Nos	£	£	Nos	£	£	£
External Residential	9.02	137,151	1,237,100	21.96	171,992	3,776,284	2,539,184
Independent Fostering Agency (IFA)	37.86	39,379	1,491,000	32.46	50,457	1,637,760	146,760
In-House Fostercare	189.10	23,253	4,483,250	223.08	22,495	5,050,997	567,747
Adoption	41.81	8,371	350,000	63.83	8,489	541,909	191,909
Residence	37.24	4,834	180,000	16.00	4,715	75,437	-104,563
Special Guardianship	93.56	6,289	588,400	144.00	5,591	805,144	216,744
TOTAL			8,329,750			11,887,530	3,557,780

March 2019 Outturn	Budget			Actuals			
Placement Type	Average	Av Unit Cost	Budget	FTE 2018/19	Av Unit Cost	Final Outturn	Budget Pressure
	Nos	£	£	Nos	£	£	£
External Residential	9.02	137,151	1,237,100	25.79	183,415	4,729,486	3,492,386
Independent Fostering Agency (IFA)	36.62	39,379	1,442,000	40.07	49,575	1,986,669	544,669
In-House Fostercare	207.10	23,253	4,815,600	242.25	24,092	5,836,264	1,020,664
Adoption	41.81	8,371	350,000	55.5	9009	500009.73	150,010
Residence Orders	37.24	4,834	180,000	12.75	5,071	64,653	-115,347
Special Guardianship	93.56	6,289	588,400	146.92	5,695	836,641	248,241
TOTAL	425.35		8,613,100	523.28		13,953,722	5,340,622

April 2019 Day 1 Projection	Budget			Projection			
Placement Type	Average	Av Unit Cost	Budget	Average Predicted No.s	Av Unit Cost	Estimated Outturn	Budget Pressure
	Nos	£	£	Nos	£	£	£
External Residential	12.48	207,593	2,590,100	23.00	183,649	4,223,930	1,633,830
Independent Fostering Agency (IFA)	40.45	49,575	2,005,400	45.25	46,733	2,114,668	109,268
In-House Fostercare	238.96	24,092	5,757,100	254.00	23,567	5,985,905	228,805
Adoption	54.00	9,009	486,500	54.00	9,009	486,496	-4
Residence Orders	19.80	5,071	100,400	12.00	5,071	60,850	-39,550
Special Guardianship	146.01	5,695	831,500	146.00	5,695	831,421	-79
TOTAL	514.04	22,899	11,771,000	534.25	25,650	13,703,270	1,932,270

March 2020	Budget			Actual Outturn			
Placement Type	Average	Av Unit Cost	Budget	Average No.s	Av Unit Cost	Outturn	Budget Pressure
	Nos	£	£	Nos	£	£	£
External Residential	11.95	207,593	2,479,900	27.56	183,087	5,045,879	2,565,979
Independent Fostering Agency (IFA)	40.45	49,575	2,005,400	37.65	48,567	1,828,539	-176,861
In-House Fostercare	238.96	24,092	5,757,100	247.67	24,755	6,131,100	374,000
Adoption	54.00	9,009	486,500	53.08	9,099	483,002	-3,498
Residence Orders	19.80	5,071	100,400	10.92	5,318	58,058	-42,342
Special Guardianship	146.01	5,695	831,500	140.75	5,710	803,625	-27,875
TOTAL	513.50	22,708	11,660,800	517.63	27,723	14,350,203	2,689,403



Children and Education Capital Budgets

APPENDIX 2

Number	Scheme	Current Approved Budget £	Actual spend to date £	Manager Forecast Spend £	Forecast Variance £	Explanation
1	Primary Capital Programme	15,827,700	15,826,300	15,827,700	0	
2	Sufficiency Programme Phase One 2013- 2015	6,289,300	6,289,100	6,289,200	0	
3	Sufficiency Programme Phase Two 2015- 2017	11,024,900	10,886,300	11,131,700	106,800	Additional work relating to Arundel Court new build
4	Secondary School Feasibility Study	97,700	97,600	97,600	-100	
5	Temporary Accommodation	358,000	358,000	358,000	0	
6	Vanguard Centre	3,264,900	3,306,900	3,326,300	61,400	
7	King Richard School Rebuild 900-1000 places	1,712,300	1,418,800	1,425,600	-286,700	
8	Portsmouth College Sufficiency Post 16	263,400	263,500	263,600	300	
9	Universal Infant Free School Meal Works	892,800	889,300	889,600	-3,300	
10	Universal Infant Free School Meal Provision	628,700	593,600	593,600	-35,100	
11	Salix	124,200	115,500	115,700	-8,500	
12	Access SEN Pupils	290,600	290,600	292,100	1,500	
13	ALN Lift Repairs	42,200	41,100	41,100	-1,100	
14	St Edmunds SI Provision	557,300	557,300	557,300	0	
15	Schools Conditions Projects - Modernisation	1,447,000	1,422,600	1,428,300	-18,700	
16	School Condition Projects 2014-2016	2,781,100	2,726,500	2,728,200	-52,900	
17	School Conditions Project 2016 - 17	981,400	872,400	878,000	-103,400	
18	Secondary School Places Expansion Phase (1)	1,643,000	1,656,400	1,704,600	61,600	
19	Special Education Needs - Building Alterations	3,191,600	2,511,100	3,213,900	22,300	
20	Schools Devolved Formula Capital 2016-17	4,343,800	4,737,700	4,343,800	0	
21	Sufficiency of Secondary School Places	5,517,500	2,689,200	5,204,300	-313,200	Final tender came in lower than expected
22	Future Secondary School Places Feasibility	304,500	60,000	60,000	-244,500	Expected to undertake 4 feasibility projects, 2 completed to date, currently reviewing requirements
23	School Condition 2017-18	954,300	714,800	853,200	-101,100	
24	Beacon View - Kitchen Block	45,000	41,700	42,400	-2,600	
25	School Condition 2018-19	1,362,200	1,044,200	1,604,300	242,100	Increases due to further works identified on site and Tenders coming in higher than expected. Offset by underspends on previous years condition projects.
26	Sufficiency of School Places 2018-19	10,742,800	4,585,700	11,413,000	670,200	Overspend due additional works at Admiral Lord Nelson
27	Special School Places - Redwood Park	3,053,700	930,900	3,057,600	3,900	
28	Special School Places - Willows	400,000	237,700	410,700	10,700	
29	Milton Childcare Sufficiency	69,100	69,800	72,900	3,800	
30	Forest School - Community Accessible Education Centre	30,000	0	30,000	0	
31	30 Hours Delivery Support EY	10,000	10,800	10,100	100	
32	Maintained Schools Urgent Condition Work	1,700,000	269,700	1,837,300	137,300	Two years of condition funding, £931,000 allocated in 2019-20 and £809,000 held for use in 2020-21
33	Additional School Places - Design	1,037,600	1,095,100	1,112,000	74,400	
34	Additional School Places in Mainstream Schools - Design	250,000	51,600	295,800	45,800	
35	Additional Secondary Schools Places - St Edmunds Catholic School (GRANT)	650,000	650,100	650,100	100	
36	Additional School Places 2020/2021	6,908,000	19,700	6,907,000	-1,000	
TBC	Northern Parade Family Hub	25,000	0	25,000	0	
Income	Academy Income	-340,000	-50,000	-390,000	-50,000	
TOTALS		88,481,600	67,281,600	88,701,600	220,100	

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Title of Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education
Date of Meeting:	1st October 2020
Subject:	Children, Families and Education Portfolio Budget Monitoring Report for the First Quarter 2020/21
Report from:	Chris Ward, Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer
Report by:	Maria Smith, Group Accountant
Wards affected:	All
Key decision:	No
Budget & policy framework decision:	No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To inform the Cabinet Member of the projected revenue expenditure within the portfolio cash limit and capital programme for the current financial year 2020-21. This report sets out the budget position and contributing factors to the projected spend within the portfolio as at the end of June 2020.

2. Summary

- 2.1. The forecast is for the total portfolio spending to be £849,000 in excess of the current revenue budget provision. This arises from expected pressures as result of the COVID-19 pandemic on expenditure and savings plans.
- 2.2. Since the end of June 2020 in the light of further Government guidance on social distancing, further planning on Home to School Transport routes for the return to school has been completed. It is now expected that the impact of social distancing on the number of additional minibuses and taxis will be less than previously estimated. There has also been an additional grant of £97,000 announced since Quarter 1 forecasts, and so the overspend forecast in this area will reduce.
- 2.3. The financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic across the whole of the portfolio is still very uncertain. At this stage additional costs and loss of income estimates have been included however it is unclear what the increase in demand on the Children, Families and Education service will be and the timeframes, and also the additional costs providers may incur. The effect on children, their families and their education from the pandemic will become apparent over a longer period of time.

The financial impact of this will continue to be reviewed and updated as appropriate.

- 2.4. The council has an overall strategy for dealing with the financial impact arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. This incorporates the £1.327m set out within this report which is driving the overall portfolio forecast overspend of £0.849m. Excluding the COVID-19 related impacts which are being accommodated corporately, the Portfolio is expected to underspend by £0.478m." The Portfolio will endeavour to exercise spending restraint throughout the year and aim to make a contribution to the financial impact of COVID-19 via an underspend (i.e. currently forecast at £0.478m).
- 2.5. Following a realignment of budgets as part of the approval of the 2020-21 capital programme in February 2020, both the Education and Children and Families capital programmes are currently forecasting a breakeven position on capital expenditure for 2020-21.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet Member notes the Children, Families and Education Portfolio forecast revenue and capital budget positions, as at the end of June 2020, together with the variance and pressure explanations.

4. Background

- 4.1 Pressure on the previously separate Children and Families and Education Portfolios along with an agreed Medium Term Financial Strategy resulted in an additional budget allocation (on top of inflation) for 2020/21 of £3m to Children and Families and £0.4m to Education.
- 4.2 The Medium Term Financial Strategy identified the future demand and cost pressures facing the service, along with strategies to improve outcomes and manage within budget.
- 4.3 The strategy to reduce the number of children needing to be looked after is known as the "Stronger Futures" strategy. It is wide ranging and is overseen closely by the Director of Children, Families and Education. The first phase of the strategy, from 2016-2018, saw the establishment of a much stronger, targeted whole family early help service, integrated with a refocused health visiting service. This enabled a better line of sight on need in the city but also a more effective earlier response which is now keeping down the total number of children requiring a statutory children's social care intervention. The second phase of the strategy while maintaining appropriate focus on early intervention has two new strands:
 - (i) reshaping statutory work to provide stronger whole family support with new adult service posts co-located with children's social workers (family safeguarding)

- (ii) remodelling our in-house foster care service to strengthen support to carers and provide a more collective approach to meeting children's needs (implementing the Mockingbird Family Model of Care).

4.4 Since the Medium Term Financial Strategy was agreed and the 2020/21 budgets were set, the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has started to be realised.

5. Summary Position against Cash Limited Budget at the end of June 2020

5.1 At the end of the first quarter an overspend of £849,000 is currently forecast for the financial year as shown in the table below.

Service Area	Current Budget	Current Forecast	Total Variation*	Variation of which relates to COVID-19 expenditure and loss of income
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Management, Sufficiency and Resources	686	709	22	0
Inclusion Services	4,591	5,040	450	263
School Improvement	456	636	180	50
Total Education Directorate	5,733	6,385	652	313
Community Learning	0	0	0	0
PCMI	53	173	120	0
Youth & Play Shared Services with the HRA	263	263	0	0
Total Education Services	6,049	6,821	772	313
Assessment & Intervention	6,296	6,342	46	4
Commissioning & Performance	148	148	0	0
Looked After Children	21,888	21,772	-117	677
Safeguarding & Monitoring	1,030	1,091	61	0
Support Activities	3,082	3,010	-72	0
Edge of Care	1,219	1,190	-29	0
Early Help and Prevention	-9	178	187	333
Troubled Families	-900	-900	0	0
Total Children and Families Directorate	32,754	32,831	77	1,014
Total Children, Families and Education Portfolio	38,801	39,650	849	1,327

*Total variation includes variation due to COVID-19 and variation not related to COVID-19
Numbers may not exactly add up due to rounding

The forecast variances to budget are explained further below.

- 5.2 **Management, Sufficiency and Resources** (£22,000 overspend): Staffing costs are currently anticipated to be slightly above budget provision as a result of a very minor variation in paid hours versus budget allocation.
- 5.3 **Inclusion Services** (£450,000 overspend): £263,000 of the overspend is a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is anticipated that there will be increased costs within Home to School Transport as more vehicles are required to meet social distancing requirements. However, estimates included on the financial impact of this are now thought to be too high and it is expected that these costs will reduce in future forecasts for the current year. The pressure created by the social distancing requirements in the remainder of the 2020/21 financial year has also been significantly mitigated by reduced costs in Summer 2020 when schools were not fully open. If the social distancing measures continue into the 2021/22 financial year the full financial impact will be felt. Since the projections were prepared, additional dedicated home to school and college transport grant of £97,000 has been announced which will cover costs associated with social distancing to the October half term, and this will be reflected in Quarter 2 projections. Again the grant is short term so if the Covid impact continues into 2021/22 there will be a significant pressure.
- 5.4 Increased costs on short breaks are expected, as families will need additional support as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. There has been a loss of income as the school fine system has been temporarily suspended. Traded Services income is reduced as schools have mainly been purchasing core services.

Cost pressures that are not related to the COVID-19 pandemic are mainly on staffing costs where there is a very experienced workforce all at the top of grade. The projection for Home to School Transport included additional costs in case contract prices increased during the year, but this is no longer expected to happen, and so this will be removed from the projection in future months.

- 5.5 **School Improvement** (£180,000 overspend): this includes £50,000 spend for a temporary project manager for supporting remote learning in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic although since the end of June a shared funding arrangement has been agreed with one of our major academy trusts resulting in a lower cost, which will be reflected in the quarter 2 report.

An anticipated reduction in the DSG contribution to Early Years of £60,000 due to reduced numbers of pupils in settings is included, which will improve as data has now shown that more pupils were in settings in January 2020 than originally thought. There is also a staffing pressure in the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (EMAS).

- 5.6 **PCMI - Portsmouth Craft & Manufacturing Industry** (£120,000 overspend): Some of the contracts within Skills & Employment are not covering central overhead costs. Alternative income/funding is currently being sought.
- 5.7 **Assessment & Intervention** (£46,200 overspend): this relates to the use of agency staff who are covering general vacancies.

- 5.8 Looked After Children** (£116,700 underspend): The overall underspend is driven by an increase in the Home Office grant relating to Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children.

The projected overspend on placements is anticipated to be £599,000. An increase in numbers in Looked After Children is expected due to the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on families which, if realised, has added £340,000 to the forecast.

Costs for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and additional staff costs which are expected to be passed on from external placement providers have been added which have a further £202,000 impact. This will be reviewed throughout the year.

Projections are based on current placement numbers being maintained until the year end, unless there are identified placement end dates known along with an estimate for additional placements as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic as mentioned above. These costs exclude Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children. The increase in unit costs reflect the anticipated increase due to COVID-19.

June 2020	Budget			Current Projection			
Placement Type	Average	Av Unit Cost	Budget	Average Predicted No.s	Av Unit Cost	Estimated Outturn	Budget Pressure
	Nos	£	£	Nos	£	£	£
External Residential	17.73	234,602	4,159,000	19.33	229,227	4,430,961	271,961
Semi Independent	6.51	40,918	266,400	9.11	83,620	761,775	495,375
Independent Fostering Agency (IFA)	34.14	49,381	1,685,900	40.94	47,006	1,924,398	238,498
In-House Foster care	260.00	24,755	6,436,300	249.59	24,573	6,132,997	-303,303
Adoption	54.00	9,009	486,500	53.33	8,499	453,218	-33,282
Residence Orders	19.80	5,071	100,400	10.67	5,443	58,058	-42,342
Special Guardianship	146.01	5,695	831,500	137.84	5,830	803,625	-27,875
2020/21 (June Projection)	538.19	25,950	13,966,000	520.80	27,967	14,565,032	599,032
2019/20 (June Projection)	514.04	22,889	11,771,000	518.95	25,402	13,182,471	1,411,471

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) are currently forecasting an underspend of £705,000. This includes £100,000 of costs in case providers increase their costs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There has been an increase in the UASC grant from central government included within the overall forecast, which is currently projected to be an additional £1.2m of income over the year.

- 5.9 Safeguarding & Monitoring** (£61,100 overspend): this relates to staffing pressures within the Service Quality Team.
- 5.10 Support Activities** (£71,900 underspend): this relates to staffing vacancies within Management/Support.

5.11 **Edge of Care** (£28,800 underspend): this relates to additional income which is expected within this area.

5.12 **Early Help and Prevention** (£186,600 overspend): this relates to additional support required to help families stay together during the COVID-19 pandemic which is forecast at a £333,000 pressure, which is partly offset by some vacancies which are being recruited to.

6. Capital Programme

6.1. Attached at Appendix 1 is the current capital budget monitoring position in respect of all schemes in the capital programme for Education, which was approved by Council 11 February 2020.

6.2. Current spending at £68.6m is some £21.1 below approved funding for the schemes identified, reflecting the longer term nature of capital spending. At this stage, however, the forecast eventual spending levels suggest a possible overall breakeven against total approved funding of £89.7m. Any underspending arising from the Capital Programme which was funded from Corporate Capital Resources will be returned and be allocated through the Budget Process, ensuring that the Council are able to allocate capital funding through a competitive basis to the Council's highest priorities.

6.3. It should be noted that Council approved 2 years of funding for condition projects in February 2019, the forecast out turn includes committed projects of £0.931m for 2019-20 and £0.809m for 2020-21.

6.4. Comments related to the variations are noted on Appendix 1, and arrangements to re-align budgets and adjusted spending plans are currently being considered.

6.5. The table shown below is the current approved capital programme for Children and Families, including payments made to date. Funding for all schemes was approved by Council 11 February 2020.

Children and Families capital programme 2020-21		Current approved Funding	Actual Expenditure to June 2020	Forecast Spend
Scheme		£	£	£
Adaptations to Foster Carer properties		185,000	108,266	185,000
Capital Grant - Housing for Looked after child		210,000	210,195	210,200
Children's Case Management software replacement		2,707,000	2,124,360	2,707,000
Tangier Road Children's Home		506,000	503,589	505,800
Beechside Children's Home		56,700	47,123	56,700
Enable and improve mobile working		191,000	0	191,000
EC Roberts Centre Refurbishment Loan		250,000	7,200	250,000
Adaptations to Carers Home		1,000,000	0	1,000,000
Total		5,105,700	3,000,733	5,105,700

- 6.6. Adaptations to Carers Homes relates to capital grants that assist in delivering placements for children which otherwise would not be possible. Each proposal is subject to a separate financial appraisal and approval arrangement. There are three requests for funding currently under consideration totalling £122,000 which are included in the forecast outturn.
- 6.7. The Children's Case Management system went live in March 2020 with post implementation work continuing, but the project remains on budget.
- 6.8. The Tangier Road and Beechside Children's Home works have been completed, both these projects are in the process of being closed and the final payments made.

7. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

- 7.1. An equality impact assessment is not required as the recommendations do not have a negative impact on any of the protected characteristics as described in the Equality Act 2010. There is no change to policy or service and through the budget review process equality impact assessments would be undertaken on an individual basis as required.

8. Legal comments

- 8.1. There are no legal implications arising directly from the recommendations set out in paragraph 3.1 of this report.

9. Director of Finance comments

- 8.1 Financial comments are contained within the body of the report.

.....
Chris Ward, Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The information upon which this report has been based has been drawn from a variety of sources; however much of the information used is held in budget files prepared by the Children and Education Finance Team. Please contact Angela Mann, Finance Manager, if required.

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by the Cabinet on

Signed by: Cabinet Member



Children and Education Capital Budgets						APPENDIX 1
Number	Scheme	Current Approved Budget £	Actual spend to date £	Manager Forecast Spend £	Forecast Variance £	Explanation
1	Primary Capital Programme	15,826,300	15,826,300	15,827,700	1,400	
2	Sufficiency Programme Phase One 2013- 2015	6,289,100	6,289,100	6,289,200	200	
3	Sufficiency Programme Phase Two 2015- 2017	11,024,900	10,900,700	11,087,000	62,100	
4	Secondary School Feasibility Study	97,600	97,600	97,600	0	
5	Vanguard Centre	3,325,500	3,306,900	3,326,300	800	
6	King Richard School Rebuild 900-1000 places	1,712,300	1,418,800	1,550,600	-161,700	
7	Portsmouth College Sufficiency Post 16	263,500	263,500	263,600	200	
8	Universal Infant Free School Meal Works	890,600	889,300	889,600	-1,000	
9	Universal Infant Free School Meal Provision	628,700	593,600	593,600	-35,100	
10	Salix	124,200	115,500	115,700	-8,500	
11	Schools Conditions Projects - Modernisation	1,447,000	1,422,600	1,428,300	-18,700	
12	School Condition Projects 2014-2016	2,726,500	2,726,500	2,728,200	1,700	
13	School Conditions Project 2016 - 17	981,400	869,500	981,400	0	
14	Secondary School Places Expansion Phase (1)	1,643,000	1,655,400	1,675,600	32,600	
15	Special Education Needs - Building Alterations	3,191,600	2,527,800	3,213,900	22,300	
16	Schools Devolved Formula Capital 2016-17	4,393,800	4,737,700	4,393,800	0	
17	Sufficiency of Secondary School Places	5,517,500	3,410,500	5,254,300	-263,200	Final tender was under budget
18	Future Secondar School Places Feasability	243,900	60,000	60,000	-183,900	Expected to undertake 4 feasibility projects, 2 completed to date, currently reviewing requirements
19	School Condition 2017-18	945,500	714,800	945,500	0	
20	Beacon View - Kitchen Block	45,000	41,700	42,400	-2,600	
21	School Condition 2018-19	1,362,200	1,029,300	1,362,200	0	Increase due to further works identified on site and Tenders coming in higher than budget. Offset by underspend on previous years condition projects.
22	Sufficiency of School Places 2018-19	10,743,500	5,701,000	11,423,700	680,200	Additional works at Admiral Lord Nelson
23	Special School Places - Redwood Park	3,053,700	1,579,800	3,053,700	0	
24	Special School Places - Willows	400,000	237,700	410,700	10,700	
25	Milton Childcare Sufficiency	70,000	69,800	72,900	2,900	
26	Forest School - Community Accessible Education Centre	30,000	0	30,000	0	
27	30 Hours Delivery Support EY	10,000	10,800	10,900	900	
28	Maintained Schools Urgent Condition Work	1,754,600	277,600	1,754,600	0	Two years of condition funding, £931,000 allocated in 2019-20 and £809,000 held for use in 2020-21
29	Additional School Places - The Lantern	1,037,600	1,106,600	1,126,100	88,500	
30	Additional School Places in Mainstream Schools - Design	250,000	51,600	250,000	0	
31	Additional Secondary Schools Places - St Edmunds Catholic School (GRANT)	650,000	650,100	650,100	100	
32	Additional School Places 2020/2021	4,053,000	0	3,790,500	-262,500	Utilised to offset overspend at Admiral Loard Nelson
33	Additional School Places 2020/2021 Wymering Site	82,000	19,700	114,000	32,000	
34	Wimborne Amalgamation	87,000	0	87,000	0	
35	School Places SEND Phases 1 & 2	4,768,000	0	4,768,000	0	
TBC	Northern Parade Family Hub	25,000	0	25,000	0	
TOTALS		89,694,500	68,601,800	89,693,700	-600	

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Title of meeting: Cabinet Member Children, Families and Education

Date of meeting: 1 October 2020

Subject: 2019-20 Dedicated Schools Grant Outturn Report

Report by: Chris Ward, Director of Finance and Resources and Section 151 Officer

Wards affected: All Wards

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Cabinet Member of the year-end outturn position as at the end of March 2020 for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet Member:
- a. Note the year-end outturn budget position for the Dedicated Schools Grant as at the end of March 2020 and the variance explanations contained within this report.

3. Background

- 3.1. The DSG is a ring-fenced grant for education and can only be used for the purposes of the Schools Budget as defined in the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations.
- 3.2. The original DSG budget for the financial year 2019-20, was approved by the Cabinet Member for Education and endorsed by Schools Forum in January 2019, with subsequent changes approved throughout the financial year. This report provides the Cabinet Member with the year-end outturn position as at 31st March 2020.
- 3.3. The year-end position for 2019-20 was complicated by the introduction of a National lockdown due to Covid-19 on 23rd March 2020. Financially this came across the year-end financial close down at a time when the

Children, Families and Education Finance Team would be meeting with Education Colleagues to clarify placement costs and receiving the final class lists for payment to schools. As the authority's focus switched to business critical functions the remaining financial transactions were made based on the last agreed status or known position. Where estimated payments have been made these are now being followed through to ensure that any adjustments are completed and included in the first quarter of 2020-21.

4. Dedicated Schools Grant

4.1. Table 1 below sets out the DSG final outturn position as at the 31st March 2020.

Table 1 - Dedicated Schools Grant				
	Original budget 2019-20 £000's	Revised Budget 2019-20 £000's	Projected outturn 2019-20 £000's	Projected over / (under) spend £000's
Income				
DSG Brought forward 2018-19	0	(3,280)	(3,280)	0
DSG and other specific grants	(72,309)	(70,263)	(70,212)	51
Total Income	(72,309)	(73,543)	(73,492)	51
Expenditure				
Primary ISB	28,753	26,672	26,493	(179)
Secondary ISB	11,680	11,680	11,680	0
Special school place funding	1,578	1,411	1,348	(63)
Inclusion Centre Place funding	302	307	307	0
Alternative provision place funding	1,090	1,090	1,090	0
Total Delegated	43,403	41,159	40,918	(241)
De-delegated and central budgets	1,580	1,746	1,254	(493)
Early Years	14,138	14,176	13,796	(379)
High Needs	13,189	13,652	14,410	758
Total Expenditure	72,309	70,734	70,377	(356)
Net forecast position	0	(2,809)	(3,115)	(305)
DSG Carried forward	0	2,809	3,115	305

The figures in the above table are subject to rounding to the nearest £1,000 and may not calculate exactly.

Dedicated School Grant

- 4.2. The 2019-20 DSG grant income was £51,000 lower than budgeted; this relates to the following factors:
- a. Increase to the import/export following a challenge to the Department for Education relating to number of pupils imported into the City £18,000 increase.
 - b. Deceased funding following recoupment of high needs places for an independent provider £52,000
 - c. Decreased funding following recoupment of additional places following the expansion of Cliffdale Primary Academy due to the closure of Willows centre for Children £35,000
 - d. Decrease from outstanding refund of recoupment funding regarding over recoupment of high needs places for an academy inclusion centre £4,000.
 - e. An increase of £22,000 was made in respect of the 2018-19 financial year, for children accessing early education. The funding is based on the spring 2019 census which is finalised in the following July and therefore adjusted in the following financial year.
- 4.3. The value of the DSG funding received directly by the Council reduced during the financial year, as a consequence of schools converting to Academy status and their funding being paid directly to them from the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). The final amount allocated to Portsmouth City Council amounted to £70.2m compared to an initial budget estimate of £70.3m.
- 4.4. The net overall position is a decrease to the carry forward of £165,000, a breakdown of which is set out in the report below.

Academy conversion - budget adjustments

- 4.5. There was one academy conversion (Stamshaw Infant School) in 2019-20. The revised budget includes adjustments relating to this academy conversion.
- 4.6. Table 2 below shows the adjustments made to the budgets during the course of the year, to reflect these academy conversions, for the primary and secondary individual School Budgets (ISB) and the de-delegated budget.

Table 2 - DSG budget adjustments 2019-20				
	Original Budget as at Jan 2019	FYE of 2018-19 academy conversions	2019-20 Impact of Academy Conversions	Revised Budget
	£000's	£000's	£000's	(as shown above) £000's
Primary ISB	28,753	-1,052	-1,029	26,671
Secondary ISB	11,680	0	0	11,680
De-delegated	754	0	142	896
Total	41,187	-1,052	-887	39,248

- 4.7. The De-delegated adjustment shows the net position of the schools-specific contingency of £141,800 brought forward from 2018-19.
- 4.8. The variances shown in Table 1 are explained in more detail in the following sections.

DSG Devolved - Individual School Budgets

- 4.9. The underspend on the primary budgets relates to a budget adjustment for rates relief for Diocesan schools, this is in line with the permitted in-year budget adjustments as set out in the Schools and Early Years Finance (England) regulations.
- 4.10. As previously reported, additional special school places were commissioned locally at the beginning of the financial year. At the end of the financial year not all of these places were utilised at Mary Rose (1.6 places) and Cliffdale (7.7 places) Academy special schools. This has led to an underspend of £62,700.
- 4.11. The Inclusion Centre and Alternative Provision place expenditure was on budget for the 2019-20 financial year.

DSG retained

De-Delegated budgets, growth fund and centrally retained

- 4.12. The Schools Specific contingency of £141,800 remains unspent at the year end. As agreed by the Cabinet Member and Schools Forum, this will be carried forward to be used for the same purpose in 2020-21.
- 4.13. The remaining element of the underspend is due to one off recoupment adjustments made to the DSG following schools' conversion to academy status (£67,000) and the Growth fund (319,300).

Early Years

- 4.14. The net underspend of £379,500 on the early years budgets relate to a decrease in the number of eligible two year olds accessing early education and a decrease in the number of three and four year olds taking up the additional 15 hours. This has partially been offset by a small increase in pupil numbers taking the universal hours.
- 4.15. The cost for funding provision for two year olds was less than the budget by £47,900, the two year old growth contingency was not required to offset any growth above budget, which provided a total underspend of £96,000 on two year old funding.
- 4.16. The budget for three and four year old provision includes both the universal 15 hours and the additional 15 hours for working parents, which was introduced in September 2017. There was an increase in pupils accessing the universal hours and a decrease in those accessing the additional 15 hours, which led to a small underspend, with the underspend on the growth contingency, this led to an overall underspend of £154,500.

Table 3 - 3 and 4 year old funding 2019-20			
	Budget	Actual	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Universal 15 Hours	7,924	8,051	127
Additional 15 hours for working parents	3,237	3,109	-128
Growth contingency	153	0	-153
Total	11,314	11,160	-155

- 4.17. The growth contingency forms part of the on-going budget provision into 2020-21, with the decision to not increase the hourly value allocated to the two year old contingency and an expected reduction in the number of pupils from the January 2020 census the contingencies for two, three and four years are expected to reduce following the updated DSG allocation in July 2020.
- 4.18. It should be noted that any change in pupil numbers accessing early education at the time of the January 2020 census will result in an adjustment to Early Years funding allocation from the DfE in 2020-21. Current estimates expect this to be a net decrease of approximately £1.5m.
- 4.19. In addition to the place funding variations, there were underspends on the disability access fund (DAF) and centrally retained budgets. The Inclusion Fund for nursery pupils with low level special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) had a small underspend, this reflects the overall reduction in the early years population and potentially the impact of some pupils now being funded from the Early Years complex needs budget in the high needs block.

- 4.20. The nursery pupil premium overspent by £34,800 in 2019-20, as this is funded based on the January 2019 census and updated in the following financial year using the January 2020 census, the authority is expecting to receive additional funding to cover these costs, but this may be offset by the overall reduction in the number of two three and four year olds.

High Needs

- 4.21. The High Needs budgets are the most volatile area of the DSG budget and very difficult to project accurately, due to a significant proportion of the funding being linked to pupil needs and movements. At the end of 2019-20, the overall High Needs Block was overspent by £694,800, this comprised of an underspend of £62,700 on individual school budgets (as per paragraph 4.10) and an overspend of £757,500 on the other High Needs budgets as explained below.

Table 4 - High needs budget 2019-20			
	Revised Budget	Actual	Variance
	£,000	£,000	£,000
Element 3 Top- up	9,706	10,127	422
Out of City Placements	2,365	2,768	403
SEN support services	1,582	1,514	-67
Total	13,652	14,410	758

Element 3 Top-up

The element 3 overspend comprises of a number of elements and contributing factors as set out in the paragraphs below.

Pupils with SEND in mainstream schools

- 4.22. As previously reported, the increasing number of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) has led to an increase in Element 3 funding being paid to mainstream schools to support children with high needs where the cost of additional support exceeds £6,000. The numbers of pupils with an EHCP in mainstream schools has increased from a budget of 465 pupils at an average cost of £3,040 average cost to 529 pupils at an average cost of £3,445 per pupil during 2019-20.
- 4.23. This was reflected in the overspend of £356,500 on this area of the budget.

Special Schools

- 4.24. The final outturn position for Element 3 funding for special schools was a £173,600 underspend. The underspend relates to:

- 36 pupils placed in Portsmouth special schools by other local authorities for which Portsmouth is not liable for top-up funding (£471,100)
 - Offset by additional funding required to meet the element 3 due to an increase in the levels of need and complexity of individual pupils (£319,800).
- 4.25. Due to the national lock-down a number of class lists were not received in-time for the closing of the 2019-20 accounts. Schools received payments for the final period of the year based on the pupils and bands as per the previous period's class lists. It is possible that once the final class lists are received that further adjustments to the funding will be required for these schools.
- 4.26. Over the year a total of 553 pupils were placed at Portsmouth Special schools compared to a budget of 560, with an increase in the number of pupils placed by other local authorities (35 compared to a budget of 26).
- 4.27. The underspend on this budget partially offsets the overspend on the mainstream element 3 top-up payments.

Inclusion Centres and Alternative Provision units

- 4.28. There was an overspend in respect of the Alternative Provision (£600) and Inclusion Centres (£4,600). The final payment for Spring term 2020 was based on the pupils in the settings as at the end of the Autumn 2019 term as due to the Covid-19 lockdown no class lists were received by the end of the financial year. Further adjustments may be required for these settings following receipt of the class lists.

Other Local authority schools

- 4.29. Portsmouth City Council is responsible for the element 3 top-up funding of pupils with SEND placed in other local authority schools. For 2019-20 this budget has underspent by £126,300, the underspend was due to clarification regarding placement of a number of pupils that had moved to Post-16 Education and final clarification of the cost of placements.

Post 16 Funding

- 4.30. The 2019-20 Post 16 element 3 Top-up budget included funding for 119 pupils based on the 2018-19 academic year, this assumed the same level of stability of pupil numbers that were seen in both the 2017-18 and 2018-19 academic years. The 2019-20 academic year saw an increase of 57 pupils with SEND attending further education establishments in the City. The increased cost due to the number of pupils has been partially offset by the decrease in the average cost per pupil from a budgeted £8,495 to £7,651 per pupil, has led to an overall overspend of £270,500 on post 16 funding.

Out of City Placements

- 4.31. The budget for Out of City placements includes pupils based in independent and specialist settings and those placed by Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). The total overspend on this budget is £403,200 analysed as:
- Independent and specialist provision - Overspend of £360,400
 - CAMHS - overspend of £42,800
- 4.32. Over the course of the final quarter all 2019-20 open orders, commitments, contributions from other services and the remaining 2018-19 accruals were reviewed in detail with the SEND team. These final adjustments are included in the outturn position.
- 4.33. At the end of the financial year there were 46 pupils (budget 36 pupils) placed in independent and specialist out of city settings at a total cost of £2,698,100. Whilst there was an increase of 10 pupils over the course of the year the average cost per pupil reduced from a budgeted cost of £64,900 to £58,700, due to a lower cost for a number of new placements.
- 4.34. There were 10 pupils (budget 7 pupils) placed in CAMHS settings over the course of the year. The combination of 3 additional pupils and an increased average cost of £6,400 from a budget of £3,900 (based on the previous year average), which lead to an overspend of £42,800.

SEN Support Services

- 4.35. £67,300 relating to permanent exclusion recharges was received in 2019-20 which helped to reduce the overspend on the high needs block to £694,800

Carry forward balance

- 4.36. The carry forward decreased in 2019-20 from £3.280m to £3.115m, representing the sum of all the variances in the overall DSG. As set out at previous meetings a number of decisions were made over the course of the financial year to utilise the 2018-19 carry forward to support the:
- Schools specific contingency (£141,800)
 - High needs block pressures (£22,200)
- 4.37. The underspends across the Schools, Early Years and Central Schools Services Blocks have helped to offset the overspend in the High Needs Block, thus reducing the requirement to use the carry forward to the extent previously reported.

4.38. The final balance brought forward from 2019-20, has placed the authority in a stronger position to manage any fluctuation in expenditure in 2020-21, particularly within the high needs block and the expected adjustments to early years funding.

5. Reasons for recommendations

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member note the contents of the report in respect of the financial outturn for 2019-20.

6. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

An integrated impact assessment is not required as the recommendations do not have a positive or negative impact on communities and safety, regeneration and culture, environment and public space or equality and diversity. .

7. Legal implications

There are no legal implications arising directly from the recommendations within this report.

8. Finance comments

Finance comments have been included within the body of this report.

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Signed by: Chris Ward - Director of Finance and Resources and Section 151 Officer

Appendices:

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
School & Early Years Finance (England) Regulations	www.legislation.gov.uk
DSG Budget Estimates and Monitoring Records	Education Finance

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

.....
Signed by:

Title of meeting: Cabinet Member Children, Families and Education

Date of meeting: 1 October 2020

Subject: Dedicated Schools Grant 2020-21 Quarter 1 budget monitoring and budget revision

Report by: Chris Ward, Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer

Wards affected: All

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Cabinet member of the projected revenue expenditure of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the current financial year 2020-21 as at the end of June 2020.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member:

- 2.1. Notes the forecast year-end budget position for the Dedicated Schools Grant as at 30 June 2020, together with the associated explanations contained within this report.
- 2.2. Approves the revisions to the 2020-21 budget as set out in Appendix 1 and section 4.

3. Background

- 3.1. The DSG is a ring-fenced grant for Education and can only be used for the purposes of the Schools Budget as defined in the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations.
- 3.2. The original DSG budget for the financial year 2020-21, was approved by the Cabinet Member for Education and endorsed by Schools Forum in February 2020. This report provides the Cabinet Member with the latest forecast estimate of the year-end outturn as at 30 June 2020.
- 3.3. Table 1 below sets out the forecast year-end financial position of the DSG budget as at 30 June 2020.

Table 1 - Dedicated Schools Grant			
	Original (SF) Budget 2020-21 £000's	Projected outturn 2020-21 £000's	Projected over / (under) spend £000's
Income			
DSG Brought forward 2019-20	(3,115)	(3,115)	0
DSG and other specific grants	<u>(73,456)</u>	<u>(73,456)</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Income	(76,571)	(76,571)	0
Expenditure			
Primary ISB	27,302	27,302	0
Secondary ISB	12,543	12,543	0
Special school place funding	244	244	0
Inclusion Centre Place funding	374	374	0
Alternative provision place funding	<u>40</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Delegated	40,503	40,503	0
De-delegated and central budgets	2,401	2,117	(284)
Early Years	14,416	14,416	0
High Needs	16,278	16,334	56
Total Expenditure	73,598	73,370	(228)
Net forecast position	(2,973)	(3,201)	(228)
DSG Carried forward	2,973	3,201	228

Academy conversions / school closures

- 3.4. As at 30 June 2020 there have not been any academy conversions this financial year.

De-delegated and Central Budgets

- 3.5. The forecast position includes growth fund allocations that have been issued to all eligible schools and academies meeting the criteria for 2020-21 financial year. One maintained school and eleven academies received growth funding for the financial year 2020-21 and no further payments are expected. This will result in a £284,000 underspend compared to budget. As discussed at previous meetings a consultation is underway with maintained and academy schools to agree the carry forward of any Growth Fund balance to support the continuing payments in future years.

Early Years Block

- 3.6. At the end of the first quarter the Early Years block is forecast to be on budget. The impact of the Coronavirus lockdown on the early years

provision has provided a level of uncertainty for both the local authority and early years settings across the city. For the summer term, the authority has paid providers based on the forecast head count at the beginning of the summer term, this will be adjusted at the end of July and August for any actual pupils that may have attended over and above the initial estimate. Until this data is received it is not possible to forecast the outturn position of this budget effectively.

- 3.7. The Early Years Team have been working closely with providers over the lockdown period to support them in accessing the additional financial support provided by central government and where required providing specialist business support.
- 3.8. At the time of writing this report the authority has clarified with settings how payments for the autumn term will be made, recognising that not all pupils will return in the autumn and therefore funding in accordance with the guidance issued by the DfE. Following the receipt of mid-term actual pupil numbers, the authority will inform settings regarding the process for making payments in the spring 2021 term in line with any further guidance issued by the DfE.

High Needs Block

- 3.9. As at the end of June 2020 work is still underway to reconcile the final class lists at the end of the 2019-20 financial year which were delayed due to the coronavirus lockdown. This work is still in progress and is expected to be finalised by the end of the second quarter, along with the summer term class lists. Therefore the Element 3 Top up budgets forecast is based on the budget.
- 3.10. The authority has received class lists from The Harbour School alternative provision setting for the half term period to the end of May 2020. This class list is showing an additional three pupils attended the school during this period and the forecast has assumed that these pupils will continue for the full financial year. Thus showing an overspend of £25,000.
- 3.11. In addition, during the Spring Term, agreement was reached between the Education Department and The Harbour School in relation to the funding of near to school and short stay places for the summer term. These places are normally commissioned by schools who would pay the Element 3 top-up funding for these places. Due to the coronavirus lockdown schools have not been commissioning these places and whilst the guidance issued by the DfE suggested that schools should be charged for the top-up funding based on previous activity, due to the nature of these services it is not feasible to identify which school would have commissioned these places over the summer 2020 term. To ensure The Harbour School continues to receive Top-up funding as per the national guidance the DSG is covering this top-up funding at a cost of £31,000.

3.12. Forecasting an overall high needs block overspend of £56,000.

3.13. Table 4 below summarises the forecast outturn position for the remaining elements of the high needs block (excluding individual school budgets).

Table 4 - Other High Needs Budget	Original (SF) Budget 2020-21	Forecast Outturn as at 30-Jun-20	Forecast (under)/ overspend
	£	£	£
Element 3 Top up	11,299,900	11,355,900	56,000
Out of City providers	2,976,800	2,976,800	0
Permanent exclusion recharge	0	0	0
EYs Complex Needs Inclusion Fund	200,000	200,000	0
SEN support services	877,300	877,300	0
Medical Education	672,100	672,100	0
Outreach	191,900	191,900	0
Fair Access Protocol	60,000	60,000	0
Total Other High Needs Block	16,278,000	16,334,000	56,000

Grant funding

3.29 At the end of June 2020 there were no adjustments to the Dedicated School Grant funding received by the authority. However following the closure of the quarter end accounts the authority received an allocation adjustment in relation to the Early Years block and High Needs block. Further details on the impact of the adjustments are set out in Section 4 relating to the revised budget.

Carry forward balance

3.35 The authority carried forward a balance of £3.1m from the 2019-20 financial year, of the balance £0.1m was used to support the schools specific contingency for maintained schools as previously agreed with Schools Forum, leaving a balance of £3.0m.

3.36 As at the 30 June 2020 the forecast carry forward has increased to £3.2m which is the net impact of the overspend on the high needs block and the underspend on the Growth Fund.

4. Budget Revision 2020-21

- 4.1. Since setting the budget in February 2020 the academy conversion of the Harbour School has been postponed and subsequent to the end of June budget monitoring there have been a number of changes to both income and expenditure that have impacted on the DSG budget, relating to:
- Clarification of the number of pupils in the highly exceptional places at The Harbour School SEN provision.
 - Clarification of the location of a number of additional special school high needs places at Solent Academies Trust.
 - Confirmation of post-16 high needs places recouped from the authority's DSG.
 - An update to the DSG allocation in relation to the impact of the January 2020 census for the Early Years block and the import/export adjustment for the High needs block.

The Harbour School academy conversion

- 4.2. At the time of setting the budget it was expected that The Harbour School would have converted to academy status by the start of the 2020-21 financial year and that place funding would be recouped from the local authority and passed to the school direct by the DfE.
- 4.3. The school was due to convert on 1 April 2020, but following the national coronavirus lockdown just before the conversion and the lack of clear guidance from the DfE regarding the funding of alternative provision settings the authority, school and Delta Academy Trust took the decision to postpone the conversion until a time when the impact on the funding had been clarified.
- 4.4. Whilst the conversion date has yet to be finalised it is proposed to reinstate the Harbour places as part of the authority's DSG budget for both the Special School SEN places and the Alternative Provision places and reduce the recoupment of the DSG grant by the DfE by an equivalent amount. Thus providing a nil impact on the overall budget.

The Harbour School Highly Exceptional Element 3 Top-up funding

- 4.5. Following the approval of the 2020-21 original budget an error was identified with pupil numbers used to estimate the Highly Exceptional band funding for The Harbour School. The Element 3 Top-up budget has been adjusted to incorporate those additional pupils at a cost £294,200.

Additional Special school places at Solent Academies Trust (SAT)

- 4.6. The original budget contained an estimate for an additional number of Special School High Needs places required from September 2020. At the time of setting the budget discussions were still underway with Schools regarding the location of the places and the actual number of places required.

- 4.7. As reported in February, the Original budget included funding for an additional 20 places (prorate) from September 2020 and associated Element 3 Top-up (based on the Cliffdale band values) which had not been allocated to a specific school.
- 4.8. Following agreement with the Academy Trust the budget has been updated and the places allocated to the specific schools using the appropriate element 3 top-up rates, as set out in the table below.

Table 5 - Impact of Place change on Element 3 Top-up funding						
	Original Budget 2020-21		Revised Budget 2020-21		Variance between Revised & Original	
	Places	Element 3 top-up	Places	Element 3 top-up	Places	Element 3 top-up
		£		£		
Mary Rose	152	2,276,862	169	2,533,124	17	256,262
Cliffdale - Willows	18	210,395	18	210,395	0	0
Cliffdale	156	1,964,337	150	1,890,220	-6	-74,117
Total Cliffdale	174	2,174,732	168	2,100,615	-6	-74,117
Redwood Park	141	1,184,391	143	1,200,024	2	15,633
Additional Places	12 ¹	117,471	0	0	-12	-117,471
Total SAT	479	5,753,456	481	5,833,763	2	80,307
The Harbour	95	1,161,137	95	1,455,366	0	294,229
Total	574	6,914,593	576	7,289,129	2	374,536

- 4.9. The impact on this budget is a net increase of an additional two places from September 2020 at cost of £23,300 for the place funding and an increase in the associated element 3 top-up £80,307 as the majority of the additional places have gone to Mary Rose rather than Cliffdale.
- 4.10. The total cost of the additional places (paragraph 4.9) and the adjustments to the Harbour Highly Exceptional pupil numbers (£294,200) have created a potential High Needs block overspend of £397,800.

Post-16 High needs places recoupment

- 4.11. Following the agreement of additional places at Highbury and Portsmouth Colleges from September 2020 and confirmation that Portsmouth is no longer the Home Authority for an independent Post-16 provider, the level of funding recouped by the DfE for post-16 High Needs places has reduced by a net £52,000. The budget has been adjusted accordingly as set out in Appendix 1.

¹ Places are prorated if they start partway through the financial year, therefore for 20 additional places for the period September 2020 to March 2021, the total is divided by 12 and multiplied by 7 months to calculate the cost.

July 2020 DSG Allocation

4.12. In July 2020 the authority received an adjustment to the DSG Allocation which is summarised in the table below.

Table 6 DSG Funding Blocks	March 2020 allocation (excluding academies)	July 2020 allocation (excluding academies)	Revised DSG allocation (excluding academies)
	£,000	£,000	£,000
Schools Block	41,248	41,248	0
Central School Services Block	856	856	0
Early Years Block	14,416	14,110	(305)
High Needs Block	18,988	18,940	(48)
Total DSG	75,508	75,155	(353)

4.13. The movement in the Early Years block relates to the annual adjustment to pupil numbers in relation to the January 2020 census. The original allocation received from the DfE was based on the January 2019 census, following the receipt of the January 2020 census the DfE adjusts the DSG allocation in July to reflect the change in pupil numbers between the two census dates. Additional it also adjusted the 2019-20 DSG allocation for the period September 2019 to March 2020.

4.14. This year the authority has seen a reduction in pupils between January 2019 and January 2020. The impact on the 2020-21 DSG funding is as set out in Table 7. In addition to the funding reduction it is proposed the related Early Years budgets are adjusted in line with the funding as set out in Appendix 1.

Table 7 - 2020-21 - funding adjustment for period April 2020 to March 2021	Actual		
	Initial 2020-21 Allocation (Mar 20)	2020-21 funding (July 20)	Actual variation
	£	£	£
2 year olds	2,039,300	1,809,800	-229,500
3 & 4 year olds universal hours	8,649,600	8,565,900	-83,600
3 & 4 year olds additional hours	3,533,100	3,528,600	-4,500
Total Place funding	14,222,000	13,904,300	-317,600
Disability Access Fund	65,100	65,800	0
Early Years pupil premium	127,800	140,100	12,300
Total Early years estimated adjustment	14,414,900	14,110,200	-305,300

4.15. For 2019-20 the authority has seen a reduction in funding of £175,300. As this relates to the previous financial year it is proposed that the 2019-20 carry forward is used to fund the reduction in grant.

4.16. The reduction in High Needs block funding is the net impact of the import/export adjustment. The authority has challenged the import/export

adjustment as there were a number of pupil movements that did not match the authority's understanding. Should the DfE agree with the data changes then the high needs block allocation could be adjusted by an additional £90,000, this has not been included in the revised budget due to the level of uncertainty regarding the DfE response to the challenge.

4.17. Overall the combined changes set out in section 4 above have provided a nett increase to the High Needs block budget of £376,300. It is proposed that these additional costs are covered from the use of the 2019-20 brought forward balance.

5. Reasons for recommendations

5.1. It is recommended that the Cabinet Member notes the contents of the report in respect of the financial forecast outturn for 2020-21 as at the end of the first quarter and approves the amendments to the budget for 2020-21 for the reasons set out in section 4.

6. Equality impact assessment

6.1. An integrated impact assessment is not required as the recommendations do not have a positive or negative impact on communities and safety, regeneration and culture, environment and public space or equality and diversity.

7. Legal implications

7.1. There are no legal implications arising directly from the recommendations contained within this report

8. Director of Finance's comments

8.1. Financial comments are contained within the body of the report

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Signed by:

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Dedicated Schools Grant revised Budget 2020-21

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The information upon which this report has been based has been drawn from a variety of sources: however much of the information used is held in budget files prepared by the children and Education Finance Team. Please contact Angela Mann, Finance Manager, if required.

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

.....

Signed by:

Appendix 1 - Dedicated Schools Grant Revised Budget 2020-21

	2020-21 Original Budget (SF) (Inc. Academies)	2020-21 Proposed Budget Revisions	2020-21 Revised Budget July 2020 (Inc. Academies)	2020-21 Revised Budget July 2020 (Ex. Academies)
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Schools Block				
Individual Schools Budgets (ISB)				
Primary	68,019	0	68,019	27,302
Secondary	54,634	0	54,634	12,543
Total ISB	122,653	0	122,653	39,845
De-Delegated and Central Budgets				
Growth Fund	1,403	0	1,403	1,403
De-delegated Budgets	0	142	142	142
Academy Conversions	0	0	0	0
Other Schools Block Sub Total	1,403	142	1,545	1,545
Total Schools Block	124,056	142	124,198	41,390
Central School Services Block				
Schools Forum	16	0	16	16
Admissions	333	0	333	333
Licences (negotiated by DfE)	124	0	124	124
ESG retained duties	384	0	384	384
Central School Services Block Total	856	0	856	856
Early Years Block				
3 & 4 Year Old Provision ¹	11,829	(73)	11,756	11,756
2 Year Old Provision	1,943	(219)	1,724	1,724
Central Expenditure on under 5's	643	(13)	630	630
Early Years Block Total	14,416	(305)	14,110	14,110
High Needs Block				
Individual Schools Budgets				
Special School Place Funding	5,735	23	5,759	1,218
Resource Unit Place Funding	598	0	598	374
Alternative Provision Place Funding	1,210	0	1,210	1,090
Total ISB	7,543	23	7,567	2,682
Element 3 Top-up funding	11,300	357	11,657	11,657
Out of City Placements	2,977	0	2,977	2,977
SEN Support Service	877	0	877	877
Medical Education	672	0	672	672
Outreach Services	192	0	192	192
Fair Access Protocol	60	0	60	60
Early Years Complex Needs Inclusion fund	200	0	200	200
Post-16 high needs places	704	(52)	652	0
Other High Needs block sub total	16,982	305	17,287	16,635
Total High Needs block	24,525	328	24,854	19,317
Total Expenditure	163,853	165	164,018	75,673

	2020-21 Original Budget (SF) (Inc. Academies)	2020-21 Proposed Budget Revisions	2020-21 Revised Budget July 2020 (Inc. Academies)	2020-21 Revised Budget July 2020 (Ex. Academies)
Income				
Schools Block	(124,056)	(0)	(124,056)	(41,248)
Central Schools Services Block	(856)	(0)	(856)	(856)
Early Years Block	(14,416)	305	(14,110)	(14,110)
High Needs Block	(24,525)	48	(24,477)	(18,940)
DSG Income ^{2,3}	(163,853)	353	(163,500)	(75,155)
One-off use of Carry Forward	0	(518)	(518)	(518)
Total Income	(163,853)	(165)	(164,018)	(75,673)

¹Includes early years pupil premium

²2020-21 per ESFA allocations July 2020

³ Includes reimbursement of Growth funding for Academy schools

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Title of meeting: Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education

Date of meeting: 1 October 2020

Subject: Maintained School Balances as at 31st March 2020

Report from: Alison Jeffery, Director of Children, Families and Education

Report by: Angela Mann, Finance Manager

Wards affected: All Wards

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Cabinet Member of the level of maintained schools' revenue and capital balances as at 31st March 2020.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Cabinet Member notes the level of maintained schools' revenue balances and capital balances as at 31st March 2020 as shown in Appendices 2 & 3 and the monitoring action taken by the council.

3. Background

- 3.1. Each year schools are given delegated budgets which are calculated using a locally agreed fair funding formula. These budgets are supplemented by specific government grants (e.g. Pupil Premium) and through the income generated by the school. Delegated revenue budgets are intended to be spent during the year on the existing cohort of pupils, although it is prudent for a school to retain a small surplus to provide for future uncertainties.
- 3.2. Schools do spend the vast majority of funds directly on the education of their pupils. However, there are a number of genuine reasons why schools may accumulate a balance at the year-end; for example, to provide for planned building works or to provide consistency in staffing levels during funding fluctuations relating to predicted changes in numbers on roll.

- 3.3. In some cases, factors outside of the control of the school can cause increases in balances; for example, large capital building schemes may slip from one year into the next.
- 3.4. Whilst devolved formula capital allocations are ring fenced for capital purposes only, schools may use revenue balances to support capital schemes. In 2019-20, schools allocated some £0.771m (£0.683m 2018/19) of revenue funding to capital purposes.
- 3.5. Schools were surveyed during the spring term to ascertain future commitments against estimated closing balances in order to provide data in accordance with Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) requirements. This data has since been updated to reflect actual, rather than estimated, closing balances.
- 3.6. In 2014 Schools Forum agreed to discontinue the "balance control mechanism" (i.e. a "clawback" system) and to implement proposals to strengthen the monitoring arrangements. An extract from the current Scheme for Financing Schools is shown at Appendix 1 which highlights the 'controls on surplus balances' together with the items that can be deemed to be committed within the year-end balances.

4. Revenue Balances

- 4.1. The following table illustrates the level of schools' revenue balances over the last three years:

Sector	No. of schools as at 31/3/18	Balance as at 01/04/18 £	% of 2017/18 budget allocation	No. of schools as at 31/3/19	Balance as at 01/04/19 £	% of 2018/19 budget allocation	No. of schools as at 31/3/20	Balance as at 01/04/20 £	% of 2019/20 budget allocation
Nursery & Primary schools	24	4,028,254	13.24	21	3,690,390	13.14	20	3,328,266	12.04
Secondary schools	2	379,974	3.57	2	749,157	6.59	2	801,995	6.83
Special schools	2	(892,921)	(17.22)	2	70,285	1.30	1	(25,843)	(0.53)
Total	28	3,515,307	7.60	25	4,509,833	10.06	23	4,104,418	9.16

- 4.2. Since presenting the balances report last year, Stamshaw Infant School has converted to Academy status and their surplus balance has transferred to the new Academy Trust. Also Willows Centre for Children has closed and the balances put back to the Dedicated Schools Grant.
- 4.3. In order to provide a consistent comparison between 2018/19 and 2019/20, the balance for this school has been excluded from the restated 2018/19 figures in the table below.

Sector	Balance as at 01/04/19	% of 2018/19 budget allocation	Balance as at 01/04/20	% of 2019/20 budget allocation
Nursery & Primary schools	3,610,579	12.77	3,328,266	12.04
Secondary schools	749,157	6.59	801,049	6.83
Special schools	49,748	1.13	(25,843)	(0.53)
Total	4,409,484	10.01	4,104,418	9.16

- 4.4. It is important to note that the total schools' balances of £4.1m as at 1 April 2020 include £0.232m (£0.176m 2018/19) of community related balances e.g. Community Improvement Partnerships, community lettings, breakfast and after school clubs etc. leaving £3.9m (£4.3m 2018/19, including schools which have since converted to academy status) of "curriculum" balances relating to core activity. Of this, a further £0.5m (£1.2m 2018/19) has been committed to specific projects or initiatives, leaving a balance of £3.6m, or 8.4% of the 2019/20 budget allocation, as genuinely uncommitted. This exceeds the CIPFA guideline of between 2-3% of budget for uncommitted balances.
- 4.5. Two schools had year-end deficit balances at the end of 2019-20. Of the two schools concerned:
- The Harbour School has a deficit balance as at the closing of the authority's accounts. Over the year end period, the School was unable to finalise the year end accruals due to illness and whilst the authority supported the school to ensure the accruals were completed, a number were missed. If the school had put these accruals through the accounts for the school would have had a small surplus position.
 - Mayfield School has submitted a deficit recovery plan which is currently being reviewed by the Authority.

5. Review of Specific School Balances

- 5.1 The school revenue balances as at 31st March 2020 are shown by school at Appendix 2. Whilst the authority has seen a welcome reduction in the number of schools with reducing or low balances since 2018-19, there are still some schools which are causing some concern. Additionally there are some schools that meet the criteria of having excessive balances. The following sections set out the explanations for the level of balances and any action being taken.

Reducing or low balances

- 5.2 During 2016-17 Schools Forum requested that the council contact the Chair of Governors for schools with reducing or low balances as at 31st March 2016. This process now forms part of the annual review of school balances.
- 5.3 At the end of 2018-19 three schools had seen a continued reduction in balances from the previous year. At the end of 2019-20 financial year, two schools, Bramble Infant and Nursery and St Swithuns Catholic Primary have seen an increase in their balances of above 8% of their budget share, which has placed both schools in a financially stronger position. The authority is still working with these schools using the Schools Resources Management Advisor to review their financial position (see Section below). The balance of the remaining school (Corpus Christi) has remained stable, but low and the authority is continuing to offer support to help the school obtain financial stability.
- 5.4 In addition to the three schools above at the end of 2018-19 the authority identified Craneswater Junior School that had stable but low balances (under 8%) for a number of years. At the end of 2019-20 the school's balance has increased and are now sitting at 12.2% of the budget share.
- 5.5 As part of the year-end monitoring process of school balances, a review was undertaken to identify those schools that have shown a continued or significant reduction (defined as 25% or more) in their level of balances and whose balances form less than 8% (primary and special schools) or 5% (secondary schools) of their budget share.
- 5.6 Three schools were identified as meeting the above criteria; Cottage Grove Primary school has contacted the authority and the remaining two Manor Infant and Devonshire Infant have been contacted offering to meet with the schools to understand the reasons for the reduction in balances and the actions they are taking to review their budgets and ensure future financial stability.
- 5.7 In summary, the schools and governing bodies contacted have indicated that they are aware of the financial situation and are taking action to address the financial pressures facing the schools.

Schools Resource Management Advisor

- 5.8 As reported in July 2019 the authority has been working with Department for Education Schools Resource Management Advisors (SRMAs) to review the financial position of two schools in the City and advise on whether there are any previously unidentified opportunities to support the schools to a financially stable position.

- 5.9 The SRMA met with the Schools in December 2019 and over the course of the intervening months has worked with the schools and authority to review schools the financial position. At the time of writing this report the initial draft report has been received by the authority. This will be reviewed along with the recommendations, before a final meeting to sign off the report. The recommendations in the reports are advisory and it is a governing body decision whether to implement them, following any further advice regarding Educational or Human Resource implications.

Excessive balances

- 5.10 The Scheme for Financing Schools categorises Primary & Special Schools who have uncommitted balances in excess of 8% of budget share as having excessive balances. For Secondary Schools, the threshold is 5% of budget share.
- 5.11 Of the 12 Primary and Special schools with uncommitted balances over 8%, six have balances below 10%, five have balances between 10% and 20% and one has uncommitted balances over 20%.
- 5.12 For Secondary Schools, only one of the two maintained schools had uncommitted balances in excess of 5% of budget share.
- 5.13 The of the three schools that had balances in in excess of 20% at the end of 2018-19, two (Fernhurst Junior and Portsdown Primary) balances have reduced to under 20% of the budget share an the end of 2019-20. Fernhurst's 2019-20 uncommitted balances total 9.3% of the budget share, using the remaining committed balances to support capital works and children with Education Health and Care plans. Whilst Portsdown 2019-20 uncommitted balances are 17.8% of the budget share. As both schools have uncommitted balances below 20% they have not picked up as part of the excessive balances review, but due to the size of the school balances the authority is in conversation with both schools to understand their financial plans.
- 5.14 For the remaining school (St John's Catholic Primary School) the uncommitted balance remains in excess of 20% at 31.55% of the budget share. Analysis of the reasons for the high balance are set out below.

St John's Catholic Primary

- 5.15 St John's year-end balances have decreased by £20,969 from £356,537 at the end of March 2019 to £337,901 at the end of March 2020. The school has indicated that all of their balance is uncommitted.
- 5.16 With regards to the uncommitted balance of £337,901, this equates to 31.55% of the school's budget share.
- 5.17 The Governing Board are in the process of implementing the plans identified regarding the balance as at the end of 2018-19 financial year

and to date the installation of the CCTV has been completed and the refurbishment of the playground is in progress. Other plans identified at the end of 2018-19 (listed below) are still under consideration and form part of the schools on-going commitment to planning ahead for expected repairs and improvements.

- Continuing with the programme to maintain the fabric of the school roof including replacing roof tiles and flat roof maintenance.
- Replacing pumps in the boiler room
- Refurbishing the toilets.

5.18 The school has identified that they are seeing a reduction in pupil premium funding and an increase in pupils with English as an additional language, which is creating pressure within their budget and have had to resort to the use of their surplus to support the planned expenditure for 2020-21. As balances are one-off funding, the long term continued use of balances to support on-going expenditure is not sustainable and the authority has gone back to the school to understand more about the pressures they are facing

5.19 In addition to the three schools above who had high balances at the end of 2018-19. A further school, Wimborne Junior, had total balances of 21.2% of the budget share and an uncommitted balance of 19.2%. The School is in the process of amalgamating with Wimborne Infant and has retained funding to support the transition to a single primary school and the subsequent loss of a lump sum from the primary budget share in 2021-22.

5.20 As at the end of 2019-20, 60% (12) of the authority's maintained primary schools have uncommitted balances in excess of 8% of their budget share. The authority is in contact with the three primary schools with uncommitted balances of over 15%, to understand the educational and financial context for these balances. The authority is working with the remaining 40% to support the effective financial management of the available financial resources, varying the level of support in accordance to the specific needs of the school. It is hoped that the support and advice will help these schools to achieve long term financial stability.

6. Capital Balances

6.1 Devolved capital allocations are ring fenced and schools are expected to spend them on priority capital needs of school buildings. These allocations will therefore be held as capital balances until they are used and may be supplemented by funding from other sources.

6.2 An analysis of schools' current capital balances is given at Appendix 3 together with proposed spending plans as returned in the school survey. Where spending plans exceed balances there will need to be additional funding proposals.

6.3 The table below illustrates the level of school capital balances for the last three years:

Sector	No. of schools as at 31/3/18	Balance as at 01/04/18 £	No. of schools as at 31/3/19	Balance as at 01/04/19 £	No. of schools as at 31/3/20	Balance as at 01/04/20 £
Nursery & Primary schools	24	573,715	21	742,769	20	572,852
Secondary schools	2	1,276,329	2	1,497,639	2	764,873
Special schools	2	(19,395)	2	14,424	1	10,394
Total	28	1,830,649	25	2,254,887	23	1,348,119

Note: the above totals are the aggregate of surplus and deficit balances.

6.4 As with the revenue balances, in order to provide a consistent year-on-year comparison, the closing balances in respect of those schools who converted to Academy status or that have closed, have been excluded from the restated 2018/19 figures in the table below.

Sector	Balance as at 01/04/19 Restated £	Balance as at 01/04/20 £
Nursery & Primary schools	731,477	572,852
Secondary schools	1,497,693	764,873
Special schools	1,845	10,394
Total	2,231,016	1,348,119

6.5 The reduction in overall balances is mostly due to a large building project undertaken by St Edmund's RC Secondary School.

7. Reasons for recommendations

This report is for information only and the Cabinet Member is asked to note the contents of the report.

8. Integrated impact assessment (EIA)

An integrated impact assessment is not required as the recommendations do not have a positive or negative impact on communities and safety, regeneration and culture, environment and public space or equality and diversity. .

9. Legal comments

There are no legal implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

10. Finance comments

Financial comments have been included within the body of this report.

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Signed by: Alison Jeffery - Director of Children, Families and Education

Appendices:

Appendix 1: extracts from the current Scheme for Financing Schools

Appendix 2: schools' revenue balances at 31st March 2020

Appendix 3: schools' capital balances and commitments at 31st March 2020

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
School Balances Files and Spreadsheets	Education Finance
Scheme For Financing Schools	PCC website

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by:

APPENDIX 1**Extracts from the current Scheme For Financing Schools****4.2 Controls on surplus balances**

As schools are moving towards greater autonomy and should not be constrained from making early efficiencies and to support medium term budgeting in a tighter financial climate, the balance control (clawback) mechanism for excessive balances continues to be withdrawn.

Schools will be deemed to have excessive balances, when Primary and Special Schools have uncommitted balances in excess of 8% and Secondary Schools 5% of their budget shares.

The control framework for monitoring school balances and their intended use requires that:

- a. Schools will continue to be asked to provide a breakdown of their year-end balances between committed and uncommitted, as well as an analysis of the intended use of any committed balances. The Education and Children's Finance team will continue to co-ordinate the process.
- b. A School Balances report will be presented to both the Cabinet member for Children's and Education and Schools Forum, following the completion of the year-end closedown process. This report will provide an analysis of the balances by school and schools with significant balances may be highlighted specifically within the report.
- c. Those schools identified as potentially breaching the balance thresholds, will be asked to provide further evidence of the planned use of their balances. The information will be reported back to Elected Members, the Schools Forum and the Education Department.
- d. The Education Department will consider this information as part of its school performance and improvement service provision, school challenge and specific reviews.

In determining whether school balances are committed, schools are only permitted to assign as committed, items listed in Annex 6.

School Forum may revisit the balance control (clawback) mechanism and the above control framework from time to time and where they believe significant and excessive balances have accumulated.

Annex 6 –PERMITTED SPECIFIC PURPOSES FOR THE USE OF SURPLUS FUNDS

- Valid orders placed through the financial system, but for which the goods have not been received.
- Funds held on behalf of other schools by fund holder schools (e.g. cluster funding).
- Balances held for specific community projects e.g. nursery provision, children's' centres, extended services.
- Contribution towards capital works with the school (where alternative capital resources have been exhausted). A clear statement of intent signed by the Chair of Governors (subject to clawback if not delivered in stated timescales - maximum 3 years).
- Providing consistency in staffing levels where numbers on roll are predicted to fluctuate within the next year (note that a reasonable commitment would be £3,000 per pupil and forecast variations in pupil numbers should be given).
- Unexpected funds received by the school near the year-end which will be utilised for a specific purpose in the following financial year.

APPENDIX 2
SCHOOLS REVENUE BALANCES AS AT 31 MARCH 2020

DFE No.	Balance as @ 31/03/2019	% of 2018/19 Budget Share Allocation	School Name	2019/20 Budget Share	Analysis of Balance		Balance as @ 31/03/2020	% of 2019/20 Budget Share Allocation	Uncommitted as % of Budget Share Allocation	Committed as % of Budget Share Allocation
					Uncommitted	Committed				
PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOLS										
2008	321,035	12.98%	Copnor Primary	2,515,372	244,803	65,655	310,458	12.34%	9.73%	2.61%
3420	47,402	3.89%	Corpus Christi Catholic Primary	1,261,291	47,205		47,205	3.74%	3.74%	
2689	186,955	9.38%	Cottage Grove Primary	2,015,518	37,498	48,687	86,185	4.28%	1.86%	2.42%
2716	89,403	5.59%	Craneswater Junior	1,723,385	207,097		207,097	12.02%	12.02%	
2665	114,313	15.33%	Cumberland Infant	746,037	66,587		66,587	8.93%	8.93%	
2648	91,501	10.46%	Devonshire Infant	892,197		66,586	66,586	7.46%		7.46%
2714	312,639	22.13%	Fernhurst Junior	1,494,603	139,593	106,417	246,010	16.46%	9.34%	7.12%
2637	57,902	7.43%	Bramble Infant & Nursery	753,821	63,809	14,000	77,809	10.32%	8.46%	1.86%
2719	112,426	10.64%	Manor Infant	1,021,753	48,453	-1,061	47,392	4.64%	4.74%	-0.10%
2673	102,168	10.64%	Medina Primary	960,754	86,356		86,356	8.99%	8.99%	
2006	220,693	12.17%	Milton Park Primary	1,834,439	228,401	-26,208	202,193	11.02%	12.45%	-1.43%
2765	523,824	24.64%	Portsdown Primary	2,178,209	387,969	44,606	432,575	19.86%	17.81%	2.05%
2680	82,256	10.22%	Southsea Infant	806,495	84,015		84,015	10.42%	10.42%	
3214	232,611	14.95%	St Georges Beneficial C of E Primary	1,622,835	74,421	67,500	141,921	8.75%	4.59%	4.16%
3422	356,537	34.94%	St John's Catholic Primary	1,070,937	337,901		337,901	31.55%	31.55%	
3212	162,239	10.25%	St Judes C of E Primary	1,585,911	121,483	46,092	167,575	10.57%	7.66%	2.91%
5207	240,788	14.49%	St Pauls Catholic Primary	1,727,809	150,881	78,802	229,684	13.29%	8.73%	4.56%
3423	55,801	4.88%	St Swithuns Catholic Primary	1,207,494	58,002	39,303	97,306	8.06%	4.80%	3.25%
2698	79,811	7.40%	Stamshaw Infant				now an Academy			
2699	92,020	11.00%	Wimborne Infant	839,550	65,509	23,815	89,324	10.64%	7.80%	2.84%
2705	208,070	15.45%	Wimborne Junior	1,392,233	267,131	36,955	304,086	21.84%	19.19%	2.65%
	3,690,390		Total Primary & Nursery	27,650,642	2,717,117	611,149	3,328,266	12.04%	9.83%	2.21%
SECONDARY SCHOOLS										
4303	31,852	0.51%	Mayfield Secondary	6,298,999	22,400	-134,453	-112,054	-1.78%	0.36%	-2.13%
5413	717,305	14.06%	St Edmunds Catholic Secondary	5,447,004	819,424	94,625	914,049	16.78%	15.04%	1.74%
	749,157		Total Secondary	11,746,004	841,824	-39,829	801,995	6.83%	7.17%	-0.34%
SPECIAL SCHOOLS										
7472	49,748	1.13%	Harbour	4,858,054		-25,843	-25,843	-0.53%		-0.53%
7750	20,537	2.09%	Willows Nursery				Closed			
	70,285		Total Special	4,858,054		-25,843	-25,843	-0.53%		-0.53%

The figures in the table above may not sum exactly due to rounding

APPENDIX 3
SCHOOLS CAPITAL BALANCES AS AT 31 MARCH 2020

Balance as @ 31/03/2019	Balance as @ 31/03/2020	Spending Plan	Description of Plan	Projected Balance
PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOLS				
31,750	Copnor Primary	11,210	14,577 Payment 3 of 3 Replacement of heating system	(3,367)
233	Corpus Christi RC Primary	233	0	233
7,723	Cottage Grove Primary	17,288	6,129 Lodge Refurb Grant Fenced	11,159
(24,749)	Craneswater Junior	(28,375)	0	(28,375)
46,737	Cumberland Infant	40,197	0	40,197
9,670	Devonshire Infant	2,211	2,211 IT hardware project	0
14,380	Fernhurst Junior	10,411	11,906 Contribution to LA Capital Works to Gable Ends	(1,495)
23,178	Bramble Infant & Nursery	23,341	21,000 To meet capital expenditure plan for 20/21 & 21/22	2,341
31,272	Manor Infant	37,781	0	37,781
11,681	Medina Primary	3,120	0	3,120
26,657	Milton Park Primary	764	0	764
64,113	Portsmouth Primary		48,000 Estimated contribution to Boiler Condition works	
			10,000 On-going Roof repairs	
			4,000 Additional ICT tables	



Balance as @ 31/03/2019	Balance as @ 31/03/2020	Spending Plan	Description of Plan	Projected Balance
Portsmouth Primary cont.	59,068	3,500	Additional ICT Interactive boards	(6,432)
17,199	1,222	0		1,222
96,158	53,364	50,000	New Modular for FSU	3,364
296,389	278,823	8,478	CCTV - Smart Security System	35,345
		150,000	Playground refurbishment	
		50,000	Roof repairs	
		5,000	Replace Boiler Pumps	
		25,000	Toilet refurbishment	
		5,000	New entry system	
50,862	51,120	15,000	Décor (hall, soundboards, stairwells)	23,120
		8,000	Girls downstairs toilets	
		5,000	Oasis room	
14,314	11,073	4,924	Salix Loan Repayment	(7,217)
		6,160	Electrical Testing	
		7,206	IT Equipment	
0	0	0		0
11,292	0	0	Academy	0
13,739	0	0		0
173	0	30,229	Contribution towards Capital work under school modernisation capital programme	(30,229)
742,769	572,852	491,320		81,532



Balance as @ 31/03/2019	Balance as @ 31/03/2020	Spending Plan	Description of Plan	Projected Balance
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SECONDARY SCHOOLS

38,287	Mayfield		7,794 Towards the purchase of new minibus	
		3,794	7,794	(4,000)

1,459,407	St Edmunds RC		6,860 Canopies	
			127,838 General/Contingency Capital work	
			362,110 Teaching Block	
			13,740 Wash/Changing Rooms	
			150,000 Art Block Refurbishment	
		761,079	660,548	100,531

1,497,693	Total Secondary	764,873	668,342	96,531
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SPECIAL SCHOOLS

1,845	The Harbour School			
		10,394	0	10,394

12,579	Willows Nursery		Closed	
		0	0	0

14,424	Total Special	10,394	0	10,394
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SUMMARY

742,769	Primary Schools	572,852	491,320	81,532
1,497,693	Secondary Schools	764,873	668,342	96,531
14,424	Specials Schools	10,394	0	10,394
2,254,887		1,348,119	1,159,662	188,457

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Title of meeting: Cabinet Member, Children, Families and Education

Date of meeting: 1 October 2020

Subject: Schools Funding Arrangements 2021-22

Report by: Alison Jeffery, Director Children, Families and Education

Wards affected: All

Key decision: Yes/No

Full Council decision: Yes/No

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Cabinet Member with an update on the latest developments in respect of the future school revenue funding arrangements for the financial year 2021-22 onwards.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet Member:
- 2.1.1 Note the Department for Education's proposed changes to school revenue funding arrangements for 2021-22 as set out in this report.
- 2.1.2 Approve the proposals for implementing the local funding formula arrangements as set out in this report; in particular to:
- Implement the National Funding Formula rates for both primary and secondary schools in 2021-22, as set out in Appendix 1;
 - Implement a minimum funding guarantee (MFG) of at least +0.5% and up to +2.0% subject to affordability, for 2021-22 as set out in paragraphs 5.16
 - The method of managing affordability as set out in paragraph 5.17.
 - Implement the disapplication request as set out in section 6.

3 Background

- 3.1 In July 2020 the Government published the Policy Document "The national funding formula for Schools and High Needs 2021-2022", and the "Schools Revenue funding 2021-2022 operational guide" along with local authority indicative funding allocations.

3.2 The publications contain further detail regarding the second year of the three year plan to provide additional funding for schools and high needs announced in September 2019, providing nationally £2.6bn in 2020-21, £4.8bn in 2021-22 and £7.1bn in 2022-23.

3.3 This report is intended to provide the Cabinet Member with an overview of the main changes to school funding highlighted in the Policy Document and Operational Guide and the progress being made towards agreeing the Schools Funding arrangements locally for the financial year 2021-22.

4 Dedicated School Grant (DGS) Funding

4.1 The DfE Policy Document and Operational Guide for 2021-22, set out how the authority will be funded through the National Funding Formula and the changes for 2021-22 along with any changes to the Schools Block and funding for mainstream schools and the Central Schools Services Block.

4.2 Further information in respect of High Needs is expected to be published in September 2020.

4.3 The DfE has advised that local authorities will continue to have flexibility to set a local formula in consultation with Schools Forum for 2021-22, but that later this year the Government will put forward plans to move to a "hard" NFF in the future and that further consultation with local authorities and other stakeholders will happen in due course.

4.4 There have been two technical changes to the Local Authority National Funding formula this year:

- The inclusion of the Teachers Pay Grant (TPG), Teachers Pension Employers Contribution Grant (TPECG) and any supplementary grants in to the school core funding (further details in Section 5.6)
- Updating of the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices (IDACI) to utilise the 2019 data set.

4.5 Indicative funding allocations for 2021-22 were published to local authorities in July 2020. Portsmouth's indicative allocations (inclusive of academies' funding) for 2021-22, together with current allocations for 2020-21 are shown in the table below:

Table 1 - Indicative Funding 2021-22				
	2020-21¹ £'000	2021/22 £'000	Change £'000	Change %
Schools Block	122,437	131,476	9,039	7.4%
High Needs Block	24,477	27,595	3,118	12.7%
CSSB	856	912	55	6.4%
Early Years Block	14,110	14,110	0	0.0%
Total	161,880	174,093	12,212	8.3%

- 4.6 Local authorities may again request a one off transfer of the Schools Block funding to the High Needs Block to support pressures. Up to 0.5% of the Schools Block can be agreed by Schools Forum, and any transfer above this requires Secretary of State Approval. There are no restrictions for transferring funding from the Central Schools Support Block, the Early Years Block or the High Needs Block to other funding blocks. There are no proposals to transfer additional funding to the High Needs block for 2021-22.
- 4.7 The following sections provide an update on the main changes to the block funding and the impact on Portsmouth.

5 Schools Block

- 5.1 The Schools Block covers the mainstream (maintained and academy) schools individual budgets and the growth fund.
- 5.2 The 2021-22 policy document on the Schools Block funding to the local authority will allow for:
- An increase of 3% on all NFF funding factors, with the exception of the Free schools meals factor which will increase by 2%
 - Increase in the Minimum per pupil funding levels (MPPFL) to £4,000 for primary and £5,150 for Secondary
 - A further increase in the MPPFL of £180 for primary and £265 for secondary to account for the inclusion of the TPG and TPECG into the core funding.
 - The inclusion of TPG and TPECG in the 2020-21 baseline for schools
 - A minimum increase of 2% on the per pupil funding when compared to the 2020-21 baseline
 - An increase to the PFI factor in line with the retail price index (1.56%).
 - Where the national assessment data is not available following the cancellation of assessments in summer 2020 due to Covid-19, the 2019 data will be used in setting the low prior attainment pupil numbers.

¹ As per July 2020 DSG allocation.

Funding for Schools

- 5.3 In 2020-21 Portsmouth schools moved to the national funding formula factor values as published by the DfE with the addition of the Portsmouth area cost adjustment of 1.42%. It was agreed by Schools Forum and approved by the Cabinet Member in January 2020 to increase the lump school for one year only in order to maximise the funding to schools during 2020-21 and that the value would revert to the NFF value in 2021-22. Appendix 1 sets out the factor values used to calculate the 2020-21 school budgets and the 2021-22 NFF factor values published by the DfE in the Policy Document.
- 5.4 The Policy Document and operational guidance state that if schools are funded on the NFF factor values there is no need to consult with schools regarding the 2021-22 mainstream funding formula. To update schools of the 2021-22 funding arrangements a briefing will be included in the consultation regarding the carry forward of Growth fund balances which is due to go to schools in September.
- 5.5 This section sets out the changes that have been made in relation to the:
- Incorporation of the TPG and TPECG to the core budget through the use of the minimum per pupil funding levels
 - Update on the IDACI data set from 2015 to 2019
 - Minimum funding guarantee (MFG) and
 - Sets out proposals as to how the authority will manage affordability following receipt of the 2021-22 Allocation in December 2020.

Incorporation of the TPG and TPECG into core funding for schools

- 5.6 Locally Portsmouth mainstream schools are expected to receive approximately £5.5m for TPG, TPECG and related supplementary grants in 2020-21. These grants cover the teacher's pay award from September 2018 and September 2019 and increase in employer pension contribution from September 2019. These grants will be incorporated into the 2021-22 mainstream funding formula in the following way.
- The 2020-21 baseline (against which the MFG is calculated) has been increased to include the grants paid to schools in 2020-21.
 - The basic per pupil entitlement has been increased by £180 for primary pupils and £265 for secondary pupils (key stage 3 and Key stage 4) on top of the 3% increase to the factor values, to reflect the amount paid per primary and secondary pupil via the grants.
 - The minimum per pupil funding level has been increased to include £180 per primary pupil and £265 per secondary pupil as set out below.
- 5.7 The rolling of the grants into the core budget will impact on the funding received by maintained schools from April 2021 and for academies from September

2021. To ensure that academies are treated fairly they will continue to receive the TPG and TPECG for the period April to August 2021.

Minimum per pupil funding (MPPF)

- 5.8 This is now a compulsory formula factor. To account for the inclusion of the TPG and TPECG into schools budgets these values have been increased to reflect the change. Table 2 below sets out the changes

Table 2 - Minimum per pupil level funding 2021-22					
Phase	MFL 2020-21	Original MFL 2021-22	TPG and TPECG adj.	MFL 2021-22	Change
	£	£	£	£	£
Primary	3,750	4,000	180	4,180	430
Secondary	5,000	5,150	265	5,415	415
All-through	4,271	4,581	161	4,741	470
KS3 only schools	4,800	5,056	159	5,215	415
KS4 only schools	5,300	5,609	106	5,715	415

- 5.9 The operational guidance clarifies the calculation for middle schools, all through schools and schools with non-standard year group structure (e.g. all through schools) which provides greater consistency. The final calculation will be based on the number of year groups as set out in the Authority Proforma tool in December 2020.
- 5.10 The MPPF is applied to school budgets after the other funding factors but before the MFG.

Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices (IDACI)

- 5.11 IDACI is an area based index measuring the relative deprivation of different areas and ascribes a score as well as a rank to each Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA)². The 2019 update provides a more up to date measure of the relative deprivation of different areas to the current data set which is based on 2015.
- 5.12 For both the schools funding and the local authority high needs funding the IDACI scores are divided into seven bands A to G with A being the most deprived and G being the least deprived. Funding is allocated on Bands A to F, with a higher amount per pupil paid to those pupils on a band A compared to those on a band F.
- 5.13 For 2021-22 the DfE are changing the banding structure to reflect the new data and to ensure that the amount of funding that is allocated through the IDACI factor does not decrease.

² LSOA are small areas designed to be of a similar population size, of approximately 1,500 residents or 650 households.

- 5.14 The new band boundaries will be defined by rank rather than by score as set out in the table below.

Table 3 comparison of IDACI bands 2020-21 to 2021-22					
2020-21 IDACI Scores			2021-22 IDACI Scores		
IDACI band	IDACI Score	National % of pupils	IDACI band	IDACI Rank	National % of pupils
G	$x < 0.2$	55%	G	12,317-32,844	62.5%
F	$0.2 \leq x < 0.25$	10%	F	9,033-12,316	10%
E	$0.25 \leq x < 0.3$	9%	E	5,748-9,032	10%
D	$0.3 \leq x < 0.35$	8%	D	4,106-5,747	5%
C	$0.35 \leq x < 0.4$	7%	C	2,464-4,105	5%
B	$0.4 \leq x < 0.5$	8%	B	822-2,463	5%
A	$0.5 \leq x \leq 1$	3%	A	1-821	2.5%

- 5.15 At the time of writing this report the DfE has not released the detailed indicative school data to enable a comparison between the IDACI funding in 2020-21 compared to 2021-22. Therefore it is not possible at this stage to identify any potential impacts this change will have on schools.

Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)

- 5.16 Local authorities will have the freedom to set a Minimum Funding Guarantee in their local formula of between +0.5% to +2.0% per pupil, without application to the Secretary of State. The MFG is applied to the individual school funding formula after the minimum per pupil funding.

Proposals for managing affordability

- 5.17 The authority normally receive the initial funding allocation in mid to late December, which is too late to come back to Schools Forum and Cabinet Member to obtain any further approval before presenting the final budget for approval in mid-January. To ensure that Officers are able to propose an affordable budget to Schools Forum and the Cabinet Member it is proposed that the following factors would be adjusted:
- The area cost adjustment of 1.42% would **not** be added to the NFF formula factor values.
 - The level of MFG would be reduced to a level lower than plus 2% but higher than plus 0.5% per pupil.

6 Disapplication requests

- 6.1 Each year, local authorities can submit disapplication requests to the ESFA, where strict adherence to the legislation as set out in the School and Early Years Finance (England) regulations (as amended each year), would generate perverse results for specific schools. The authority will be submitting a

disapplication request by the deadline of 11 October 2020 in respect of the operation of the minimum funding guarantee (MFG), as set out in the following paragraphs.

- 6.2 **Ark Charter Academy:** has historically enjoyed a high level of MFG protection, which dates back many years and was caused by a sudden and significant drop in pupils. The local formula at that time, in common with most other local formulae, provided "real term protection", which ensured that a school would receive at least 95% of the previous year's funding in cash terms. This funding was subsequently locked in by the MFG, which provides protection on a per pupil basis. As the pupil numbers at Ark Charter have increased, so the MFG protection has grown.
- 6.3 Capital investment for Ark Charter was needed to increase the capacity of the school to meet basic need; however the local authority could not sanction the capital investment if the increase in capacity would also increase the level of MFG support. The local authority has agreed a compromise with Ark, whereby only 600 pupils (2018-19 capacity) would continue to receive MFG protection and any new pupils above that level will receive appropriate pupil-led funding for that school, i.e. basic entitlement, deprivation, prior attainment funding etc. Official approval to this agreement was received from the DfE, but needs to be applied for annually.

7 High Needs Block Funding

- 7.1 Nationally the Government have increased High Needs funding by a further £730m on top of the £780m provided in 2020-21. The DfE has advised that each local authority should see an increase in their High Needs Block funding of 8%, using the 2020-21 high needs allocations as a baseline, with adjustments for population changes. The DfE has also set a gains cap of 12%.
- 7.2 Indicative funding published by the DfE on 20 July provides Portsmouth with an increase in funding of 12.7%³ when compared to 2020-21.
- 7.3 The allocation incorporates funding for the TPG, TPECG by increasing the basic entitlement factor from £4,087 to £4,660 per pupil attending special schools and academies. The allocation also includes the changes to the IDACI data set as with mainstream schools.
- 7.4 The actual funding allocation for 2021-22 will not be known until December 2020 and will be adjusted for the latest pupil census information and the up to date Teachers Pay/Pension Grant information.

Funding for Schools

³ The funding floor and cap on gains calculation excludes funding for basic entitlement, import/export adjustment, hospital education and the AP settings TPG and TPECG funding. Portsmouth City Council receives the full 12% on the other formula factors.

- 7.5 The DfE has not issued any detailed guidance regarding how the additional DSG funding relating to the TPG and TPECG should be passed on to Special Schools, therefore we are not clear if this will be included as part of the place funding or part of the Element 3 Top-up funding. Additional information is expected from the DfE in September and will be shared with schools when received.

8 Central Schools Services Block

- 8.1 The Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) supports the following budgets:
- Admissions
 - Central licences provided by the DfE
 - Schools Forum
 - Education support grant retained duties for all schools.
- 8.2 The authority is expected to receive an increase of £55,000 due to an increase in the per pupil funding rate to £33.48, an increase of 6.4%. The authority will utilise the increase to fund an inflationary increase in central licences and to support the Admissions service.

9 Early Years Block Funding

- 9.1 To date the DfE has not issued any guidance yet in relation to the Early Years Block for 2021-22, following publication later this year an update will be brought to Schools Forum and the Cabinet Member for Children Families and Education.

10 Engagement with schools

- 10.1 As there is no longer a requirement to consult with schools on the formula factors a formal consultation relating to the 2021-22 funding formula has not gone to schools. Instead to ensure that all schools are kept informed an update on the funding arrangements as set out in this report will be circulated to schools in the autumn term.

11 Strategic direction

- 11.1 The strategic direction, as set out in the SEND Strategy, remains a commitment to promote inclusion and improve the outcomes for children and young people aged 0-25 with SEND. In order to do this, we aim to ensure that there are in place a continuum of high quality support services that contribute towards removing barriers to achievement and that children and young people's special educational needs are identified early so that a high quality and co-ordinated offer of support can be put in place.

- 11.2 The SEND Strategy states that we aim to ensure a continuum of high quality educational provision is in place so that children and young people with SEND can attend a local mainstream nursery, school or college wherever possible.
- 11.3 This means that we need to ensure mainstream providers have the resources, skills and competence to meet the needs of a wide range of children and young people with SEND. In addition, we want to commission high quality specialist provision so that children and young people can be successfully educated within the city.
- 11.4 In 2017/18 Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils undertook a joint SEND Strategic Review. A summary of the key findings that are pertinent to this paper are set out below: :
- The number of EHCPs will increase, at a minimum, in line with population increases and increases in prevalence, but potentially also as a result of increased expectations and demand.
 - This increase is expected to be **most significant in the numbers of children with severe learning difficulties and complex** needs which has already put pressure on special school places.
 - The **need and demand for Special School places is predicted to increase** year on year due to increasing numbers of children and young people with severe and complex needs and autism and the increase in age of statutory protection
 - The review identified that there are children currently in special schools whose needs could be met in an inclusion centre or mainstream school, but additional support and resources for mainstream schools would be needed to achieve this.
- 11.5 These predictions have been further refined and confirmed by the SEN Place Planning Strategy 2018-2024. In the light of this, an SEND accommodation review was commissioned in 2019 to: review existing accommodation; consider how to physically organise the SEND provision on a city wide basis; and identify the need for additional accommodation and / or reconfiguration of existing accommodation.
- 11.6 Key recommendations from the review included:
- **Inclusion centres** - additional places should be created by extending the capacity of existing facilities subject to feasibility work; and that new inclusion provision is considered if future opportunities become available
 - **Alternative / SEMH provision (AP)** - capacity at Flying Bull Inclusion Centre is increased to meet the growing need (and to consider an extension to Year 6 on the Flying Bull site); and consideration be given to supporting internal AP provision in secondary mainstream schools

- **Complex and Complex Plus** - additional specialist school places are created for children and young people with complex and complex plus needs.

11.7 A second phase of work is now being undertaken building on these recommendations. This includes a review of existing accommodation in the City in order to identify recommendations for how to create up to 140 additional specialist places in total across a number of sites/settings in the most cost effective way. The second phase of work is due to be completed by October 2020 and will inform future capital works to support SEND places in the city.

12 Mainstream Education Health and Care plans

12.1 In October 2019 Schools Forum agreed to the introduction of a banded funding system for pupils with Education Health and Care Plans attending mainstream schools from April 2021. Since then the Education Department has been working with schools to agree the criteria for each of the bands and allocating a band to the individual pupils based on their needs.

12.2 Following this work financial modelling has been undertaken to allocate a value to each of the bands which attempts to ensure that the schools receive the funding to enable them to support pupils effectively but does not build in undue growth to the budget. The resulting potential funding to schools (based on the implementation of band values) was then compared to the current EHCP funding being received by schools for the pupils that would fall into each band. The initial band values and the variance to the current EHCP funding provided to schools are set out in the table below.

Table 4 - Proposed band values for EHCP mainstream April 2021		
Band	Proposed value	Variance to current funding (July 2020)
	£	£
Core	400	(2,632)
Enhanced	2,000	(11,524)
Exceptional	4,300	27,188
Exceptional plus	6,050	5,527
Highly Exceptional	8,000	1,926
Total		20,485

12.3 The financial modelling has been based on the pupils as at July 2020, if these values are implemented 19 schools (18 Primary, 1 Secondary) would see a reduction in the funding. The minimum reduction in funding would be £332 (5.7% of current EHCP funding) with the maximum reduction would be £3,595 (11% of current EHCP funding). Of the 39 schools that gain under the banding proposals (29 primary, 10 Secondary and 1 All through) the maximum gain will be £6,150 (8% of current EHCP funding) and the minimum gain £49 (0.01% of current EHCP funding). Further modelling will be carried out in the autumn term to include the new cohort of pupils and identify the impact on schools.

12.4 Introduction of the banding will increase the cost to the DSG by £20,500.

- 12.5 The funding briefing to be sent to Schools early in the autumn term will include a school by school breakdown of the impact of the proposed banding on their July EHCP funding. The actual banding values will be set in January 2021 following the receipt of the initial 2021-22 funding allocation in December 2020 and clarification of the methodology for passing the Teachers pay and pension grants to special schools. It is proposed that the rates set out in Table 4 will be not be reduced when finalising the budget, but may be increased according to overall affordability.

13 Reason for recommendations

- 13.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the latest developments in respect of the future school revenue funding arrangements for 2021-22 onwards. The report also seeks endorsement to the proposals for implementing these arrangements locally, in order to ensure that they comply with the requirements of both the DfE's operational guidance and the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations.

14 Equality impact assessment (EIA)

- 14.1 This report and the proposals within form part of, and are consistent with, the national implementation of the schools and high needs National Funding Formula as directed by the Department of Education and set out in the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2020.
- 14.2 The DfE has conducted a full Equality Impact Assessment which is attached to the Policy document and can be found on their website⁴. The funding system does not seek to target funding by reference to particular protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, but instead targets funding to those groups which the evidence demonstrates face barriers to their educational achievement.

15 Legal Implications

- 15.1 The Government is reforming the current school funding system from 2018-2019 and an update on the progress of that reform is provided in the body of this report.
- 15.2 The recommendations in this report are consistent with the requirements of the Schools Revenue Funding Operational Guide published by the Education & Skills Funding Agency and the national funding formula for schools and high needs 2021 to 2022 published by the Department for Education.

4

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/901889/FINAL_2021-22_NFF_Policy_Document_MB.pdf

- 15.3 It is anticipated that the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2020 will be updated in due course by central government to confirm the specific provisions in relation to schools funding in the 2021/22 financial year.

16 Finance Comments

- 16.1 Financial comments and implications are included in the body of this report.

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Signed by: Alison Jeffery, Director of Children, Families and Education

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Portsmouth Rates to National Funding Rates Comparison Table 2020/21 to 2021/22

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
The national funding formula for schools and high needs 2021 to 2022 (published 20/07/2020)	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/901889/FINAL_2021-22_NFF_Policy_Document_MB.pdf
Schools revenue funding 2021 to 2022: Operational guide (published 20/07/20)	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pre-16-schools-funding-local-authority-guidance-for-2021-to-2022
School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2020	The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2020

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

.....
Signed by:

Appendix 1 - Portsmouth Rates to National Funding Rates Comparison Table 2020/21 to 2021-22

Funding Factors	Payable for:	Unit rate 2020-21*		Unit Rate 2020/21	
		Primary £	Secondary £	Primary £	Secondary £
Basic Entitlement Number on Roll (NOR) NOR Key Stage 3 NOR Key Stage 4	Primary including reception Key stage 3 pupils Key stage 4 pupils	2,897.46	4,074.89 4,625.58	3,123	4,404 4,963
Deprivation Free School Meals Free School Meals Ever 6	Free School Meals (FSM) Free School Meals Ever 6	456.37 567.93	456.37 826.54	460 575	460 840
IDACI F	2020-21 Pupils with an IDACI score 0.20 to 0.25 2021-22 Pupils ranked between 9,033 and 12,316	212.97	304.25	215	310
IDACI E	2020-21 Pupils with an IDACI score 0.25 to 0.30 2021-22 Pupils ranked between 5,748 and 9,032	253.54	410.73	260	415
IDACI D	2020-21 Pupils with an IDACI score 0.30 to 0.35 2021-22 Pupils ranked between 4,106 and 5,747	380.31	542.58	410	580
IDACI C	2020-21 Pupils with an IDACI score 0.35 to 0.40 2021-22 Pupils ranked between 2,464 and 4,105	410.73	588.21	445	630
IDACI B	2020-21 Pupils with an IDACI score 0.40 to 0.50 2021-22 Pupils ranked between 822 and 2,463	441.16	633.85	475	680
IDACI A	2020-21 Pupils with an IDACI score 0.50 to 1.0 2021-22 Pupils ranked between 1 and 821	608.50	851.89	620	865
Prior attainment Primary	Primary pupils identified as not achieving the expected level of development in the early years foundation stage profile (EYFSP)	1,080.08		1,095	
Secondary	Pupils not achieving the expected standard in Key Stage 2 at either reading, writing or maths		1,632.80		1,660
English as an additional Language	EAL eligible pupils who started school within the last 3 years	542.58	1,460.39	550	1,485
Mobility		887.39	1,267.70	900	1,290
Lump Sum	Flat rate per school	136,770	136,770	117,800	117,800

*Note: the 2020-21 rates represent the values for Portsmouth schools based on the national NFF rates plus the area cost adjustment of 1.01416.

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THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY. (Please note that 'Information Only' reports do not require Equality Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance comments as no decision is being taken.)

Title of meeting: Cabinet member for Children and Families Services

Subject: Annual Adoption Agency Activity Report March 2020

Date of meeting: 01/10/20

Report by: Jackie Clark, Service Leader, Adoption

Wards affected: None

1. Requested by:

- 1.1. It is required by Standard 25.6 of the Adoption National Minimum Standards 2011 for Local Authority Adoption Services that the executive receives a six-monthly written report outlining the management and performance of the adoption agency.
- 1.2. The Lead Member is asked to note the performance of the Portsmouth Adoption Agency in terms of:
 - a) Update regarding the first year of Adopt South Regional Adoption Agency
 - b) Reducing waiting times for children being placed with adoptive families.
 - c) Sustained number of children adopted in contrast to the national picture.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. The previous report was presented March 2020. This report will update the Lead Member on Portsmouth Adoption Service activity for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

3. Background

- 3.1. Practices in adoption have continued to receive government attention since the Government's Adoption Reform Programme 2012 to promote stable, permanent care arrangements for children unable to be cared for by their birth families. In the DfE paper 'Adoption - A Vision for Change' the government outlined expectations for improved practices measured through the introduction of the National Adoption Scorecards and the development of regionalised adoption agencies.
- 3.2. Portsmouth Children and Families Service were subject to Ofsted inspection September 2018 and the service was graded as 'Good'. With regard to the adoption service the Ofsted report stated:

- 3.3. 'Children who need adoption benefit from timely decision-making and effective planning. Good assessment, training and support is available for prospective adopters. Children move quickly to live with their adoptive families and they enjoy stability. Good use is made of the adoption support fund to meet children's therapeutic needs. Close work with CAMHS, the virtual school, educational psychologists and play therapist holistically supports carers to meet their children's needs'. The regionalisation of Portsmouth adoption service is an opportunity to further develop the service provided for Portsmouth children and their families.
- 3.4. In June 2015, the Department for Education (DfE) published 'Regionalising Adoption' and asked all adoption agencies in England to consider how to work more closely together on a regional basis. This was enacted as the Education and Adoption Act 2016, which authorised authorities and voluntary adoption agencies to join together to form Regional Adoption Agencies (RAAs). Hampshire County Council, Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council adoption services came together along with the voluntary adoption agencies Barnardo's and Parents and Children Together (PACT) to establish Adopt South Regional Adoption Agency (RAA).
- 3.5. Adopt South went live 1 April 2019 and became responsible for specific aspects of adoption to improve outcomes for children and families involved with adoption. The key functions for Adopt South are the recruitment, assessment and support of prospective adoptive families and the post adoption support services for adopted children and their families. Adopt South has a centralised marketing and recruitment team dedicated to identifying potential adoptive families for children needing adoption within each of the four local authorities. The Adopt South children's family finding team is directly linked to each local authority children's adoption team to ensure suitable potential adoptive families are identified as soon as possible promoting timely matching and placement for those children. Furthermore those children adopted and their families now have access to Adopt South's comprehensive post adoption service comprising a range of support that includes adopter mentoring, consultations with CAMHS and Education Psychologists, therapeutic parenting programmes, informal support workshops and social events.
- 3.6. The two key benefits of Adopt South to Portsmouth has been the removal of the competition between the four local authorities for adoptive families through having one centralised Adopt South recruitment and marketing strategy and the pooling of resources to enhance post adoption support services available to families across the Adopt South region. These centralised services have meant that for 2019/20 that the vast majority of Portsmouth children needing adoptive families have continued to move to adoptive families within an improving timescale in line with Government timescales and adoptive families have access to local Adopt South support services.

4. Areas that are doing well

- 4.1. The timeliness and number of Looked After Children leaving foster care to adoption has generally continued to be in accordance with Government Adoption Scorecards. Please see appendix 1.
- 4.2. The number of children adopted during the year 2019/20 was 25. This cohort of children included three sibling pairs. Two children were older children. Sibling groups and children over the age of four can wait longer for an adoptive family to be identified as many adoptive families will set out to adopt younger children. The number of Portsmouth children adopted during this period is an increase from the previous year whereby 15 children were adopted and is in contrast to the national trend.

- 4.3. For the period 2019/2020 there were 21 children matched with adoptive families whereby applications for adoption orders were in the process of being submitted to court. This group of children included two children with very complex health and development issues who had been waiting for adoptive families for more than twelve months. Whilst the time will have impacted Government led timescales the extensive search to identify an adoptive family represents a positive outcome for each child.
- 4.4. At 31 March 2020 there were six children awaiting for adoptive families to be identified. This is a marked improvement in contrast to the previous year when there were 21 children awaiting an adoptive family, many of those children had complex needs.
- 4.5. For some young children unable to live with their birth family it is possible for them to be placed in Fostering for Adoption Placements (FfA). These are adoptive families who are also approved temporarily as foster carers for a specific child. Fostering for Adoption can offer the best opportunity for the child if the court decides they need to be adopted as the child can be placed with an approved adoptive family whilst parents and wider family members are being considered. The child remains in one placement whilst decisions are being made rather than being placed with a foster family and then move to an adoptive family should the court decide the child needs adoption. For 2019/20 there were two Portsmouth children matched with Fostering for Adoption families
- 4.6. In comparison with the 2018/19, the number of Portsmouth children with a plan of adoption endorsed by the court has decreased in 2019/20 from 29 to 20, which reflects the national trend in the reduction in number of children leaving care for adoption. When children come into care, reunification to birth parents or permanence with a member of the child's extended family will always be explored before an adoption plan is agreed. This reflects the legal duty placed on the court to only grant an order agreeing for a child to be placed for adoption when it is satisfied the child cannot live with birth family or within the wider family.
- 4.7. Portsmouth's timeliness for children being adopted has continued to improve. The government threshold measurement in number of days from the date the child entered care to the date the child is placed with an adoptive family is 426 days. For the 2019/20 period Portsmouth's timescale is 396 days, although well within the Government threshold it does represent an increase from the previous year 2018/19 of 336 days. The increase in number of days would be due to members of the child's birth family being considered during care proceedings and/or the child has complex needs and therefore identifying a suitable adoptive family take longer.
- 4.8. The other timescale is the number of days the court agrees a child to be placed for adoption and the local authority agreeing to the potential match with an adoptive family which has a threshold of 121 days. For Portsmouth the timescale for 2019/20 is 208 days in contrast to 178 days 2018/19. The increase in number of days reflects the fact that some of the children successfully placed are particularly vulnerable and have complex needs and therefore identifying a suitable family takes longer as the many adoptive families set out to adopt young infants.
- 4.9. Both sets of timescales compare favourably with the England national average timescales published August 2020 for the year 2018/19 by the government Adoption and Special Guardianship Board (ASGLB) at 433 and 173 days. Please see appendix 1.
- 4.10. During 2019/20 the vast majority of children have been placed with Adopt South adoptive families which means those children remain placed within the geographical region

and those families will already have knowledge of and access to the Adopt South support service. Therefore adoptive parents are more likely to access support before a crisis point and the risk of adoption breakdown will be reduced.

5. Adopt South

5.1. The Regional Adoption Agency has removed the competitive element of the four local authorities recruiting adoptive families as Adopt South has a centralised recruitment team. In 2018/19 Portsmouth Children's Services assessment team approved 11 adoptive families, in 2019/20 the Portsmouth team approved 34 adoptive families contributing to Adopt South's overall total of 121 adoptive families being approved. For Portsmouth this has enabled children to be placed with families across the regional area. The relationships forged between the local authority children's adoption teams and Adopt South family finding team and adopter assessment teams means that information sharing for potential matching is comprehensive, robust and expedient. The adopter assessment process has been enhanced and standardised by sharing the good practice between the four local authorities quality assured through the Adopt South centralised Adoption Panels and Agency Decision Maker. Equally the Adopt South family finding team working with the children's adoption teams has promoted improved practice to ensure children's information needed for family finding is comprehensive and will fully inform an adopted child as an adult about their birth history and adoption.

5.2. Adopter recruitment is measured against the Government threshold of a two stage assessment totalling six months. For Adopt South the average assessment timescale for 2019/20 was 5.3 months. This means the Adopt South family finding team is able to identify potential families at an early point and there has been increase in choice of potential families for children. The approval of adoptive families within timescales feeds into the improving timescale for children being placed with those families. Those children and their families are supported within a shared ethos of delivering a co-ordinated and high standard adoption support service throughout the process of adoption and beyond. Prospective adoptive families are linked with an adopter mentor and training opportunities from the point of assessment offering support all the through to beyond an adoption order thereby enabling families to become regard adoption support as a familiar and accessible service at any point as an adoptive family.

6. Adoption Support

6.1. Many children needing adoption come from families with complex backgrounds where they have experienced trauma due to ongoing neglect, families characterised by domestic abuse, drug and alcohol abuse. Research shows the impact of those experiences can have a significant impact upon the child's development and these children need nurturing, resilient and stable families able to care for the child through to adulthood and sometimes beyond. As children are matched with prospective adoptive families it is imperative for those families they are able to access support.

6.2. Adoption support services have been strengthened by Adopt South. Portsmouth currently has 142 adoptive families eligible for adoption support. Families may request an assessment of their support needs at any time. Adoptive families can now access training programmes, workshops; mentoring and support groups, one to one support, consultations with educational psychologists and CAMHS practitioner and social activities.

- 6.3. In addition the Government Adoption Support Fund (ASF), enables adoptive families to have access funding for therapeutic support. During 2019/20 Portsmouth has secured a total of £99,121 for adoptive families needing specific therapeutic support. This support including therapeutic parenting programmes, one to one therapeutic support for children, sensory integration therapy and specialist assessments. The ASF has been particularly beneficial enabling those families living outside of the geographical region to receive specialist therapeutic support. Across Adopt South there was a total of £720,548 granted for adoptive families to access therapeutic support.
- 6.4. For 2020 the Government gave a boost of 4.5million to the ASF which will enable families to access specialist therapeutic support. For the period 1 April to 30 June 2020 there has been a total of £21,540 granted for Portsmouth families. The ASF and the number of families accessing funding for specialist support is a reflection of the complex needs of adopted children. Adopt South has centralised the four local authorities ASF process and developing support service that would be sustainable should the ASF reduce or come to an end.
- 6.5. Adoption Services continue to learn from the work in supporting adopted adults and birth family members who were involved in adoption (Birth Records Counselling and Intermediary Service). Currently this service sits outside of Adopt South. Between 2019/20 there were been 34 referrals received for birth records counselling and intermediary work. This figure is consistent with the previous year which culminated in a total of 42 referrals being made. There is an increasing number of young adopted adults accessing their adoption records. These younger adults are more likely to have been adopted through care proceedings and it is evident that they are seeking to understand the detail in decisions made to separate them from birth parents particularly when separated as siblings.
- 6.6. Post adoption contact with birth family members is promoted from the outset of a child being placed for adoption in order for the child to develop a clear understanding of their birth family and sense of identity. The majority of adopted children will continue to have indirect contact with birth parents and siblings up to the age of 18 through a letterbox exchange co-ordinated by the adoption service. Over the course of the year there are 250 adopted children involved in letterbox contact culminating 1097 exchanges over the course of the year.
- 6.7. At present the Birth Records Counselling and Intermediary Service and the Post Adoption Contact Service exchange sits outside of the Adopt South remit. However now that adopter recruitment; assessment and support; family finding and post adoption support is established Adopt South are proposing both those service areas to become part of Adopt South Post Adoption Support from 2021. The benefits will be adoptive parents being able to access consistent support relating to the lifelong needs of adopted children.

7. Areas for consideration

- 7.1. Nationally, the number of children needing adoption has reduced and Portsmouth has seen a reduction in the number of children with a court agreed adoption plan (Placement Order), over the past three years. Portsmouth Children's Social Care continues to maintain a robust permanence tracking process to ensure children becoming looked after have a timely permanence plan appropriate to their needs. This may be placement with birth parents, special guardians, relatives, long-term fostering or adoption. Children may be placed with kinship (family and friends foster carers) before securing a Special Guardianship order.

8. Areas of development

8.1. The government provided £650,000 investment to regional adoption agencies to boost adoptive family recruitment particularly for those children with complex needs and deemed harder to place i.e. older children, sibling groups and children of black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds. Adopt South continuously updates the recruitment strategy including developing prospective adoptive parents knowledge, understanding and support to promote matching with the children with complex needs.

8.2. In summary the strengths of Adopt South to Portsmouth are:

- 8.2.1. The removal of local competitive recruitment for prospective adoptive families.
- 8.2.2. Immediate access to a wider pool of adoptive families for Portsmouth children across the region.
- 8.2.3. Adoptive placements more localised within the local regional area, promoting efficiency in adoption support, particularly specialist local service providers for adoption support.
- 8.2.4. Building on local authority good practice, skills and expertise to enable prospective adopters to be fully prepared and suitably matched and supported with those children placed - securing that child's future throughout their childhood and beyond.
- 8.2.5. Early indications regarding Adopt South show an increase in the number of adoptive families available for those children needing adoption and that the timeliness for Portsmouth children leaving care for adoption continues to be on an improving trajectory.
- 8.2.6. Regionalising adoption support enables adoptive families being able to access robust comprehensive support packages to mitigate risk of disruption for children with complex needs.

Signed by (Director)

Appendices:

- Adoption activity 2014-2020
- PCC Adoption Scorecard 19/20 , Government Adoption Scorecard -Portsmouth data

Appendix 1 Adoption activity 2013 – 2020

Year 1 April - 31 March	Adoption orders No. of children adopted	Children's plans for adoption agreed	Placement Orders granted	Children linked with adoptive family	Prospective adoptive families approved	FfA placements	Placements disrupted
2013/14	27	41	30	35	37	0	0
2014/15	34	29	27	31	32	1	2
2015/16	25	41	41	28	22	4	2
2016/17	35	21	19	31	21	5	0
2017/18	30	31	30	20	11	5	1
2018/19	15	30	29	25	15	5	0
2019/20	25	27	20	21	34 (Portsmouth number)	2	2

Appendix 2 - Adoption Scorecards

- 1) Pages 9 and 10 show data extracted from the DfE Adoption, Special Guardianship Leadership Board Adoption Scorecards published 24/08/20. For full information please see link:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/adoption-scorecards

- 2) Government thresholds for children needing adoption timeliness

A1: 426 days - from date child enters care to moving in with adoptive family

A2 : 121 days -from date the court agrees to local authority placing a child for adoption to the date the local authority agrees the match for the child with an adoptive family

Government Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board (ASGLB), figures for rolling year 2016-19 (published August 2020)

A1: National England average 433 days

A2 : National England average 173 days

ASGLB Portsmouth timescales for 2016-19

A1 : Average 336 days

A2: Average 178 days

Portsmouth timescales for 2019/20

A1: Average 397 days

A2: Average 208 days

Select LA:

Portsmouth

Select indicator to display on the graph:

A10

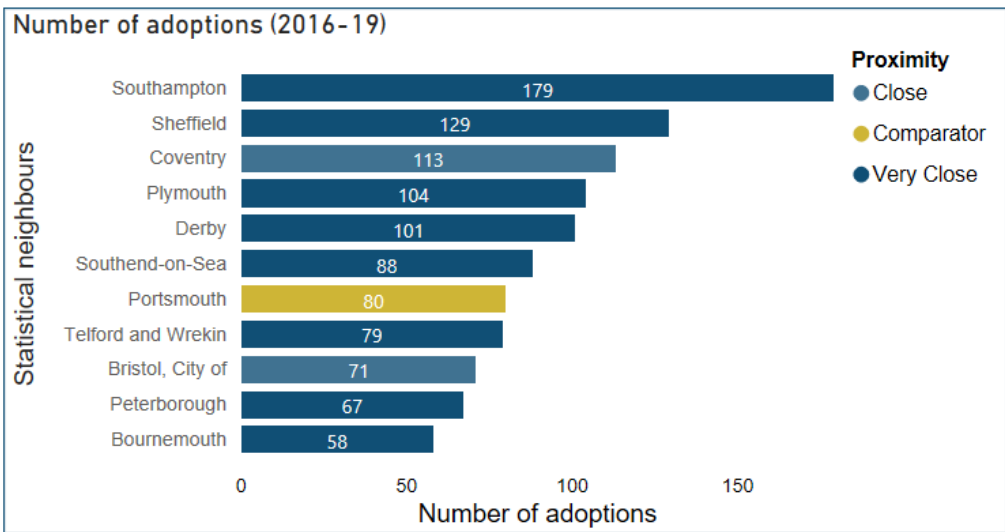
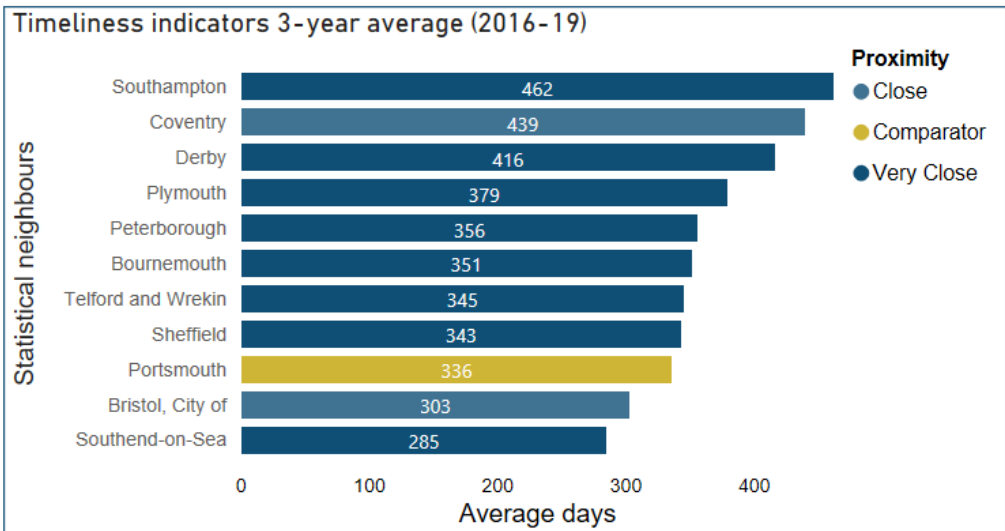
A2

A20

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Page 97



A10: Average time (in days) between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family adjusted for foster care adoptions:

2019:		2016-19:	
LA average days:	Stats neighbours average:	LA average days:	Stats neighbours average:
239	408	336	380

A2: Average time (in days) between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family:

2019:		2016-19:	
LA average days:	Stats neighbours average:	LA average days:	Stats neighbours average:
121	203	184	195

A20: Average time (in days) between entering care and placement order:

2019:		2016-19:	
LA average days:	Stats neighbours average:	LA average days:	Stats neighbours average:
143	252	178	241

Note: If there is no data, or the data has been suppressed, the LA will appear as blank in the graphs.

Data from DfE : Adoption, Special Guardianship Leadership Board (ASGLB) published 24/08/20

Select LA:

Portsmouth

Select indicator(s) to display on graph:

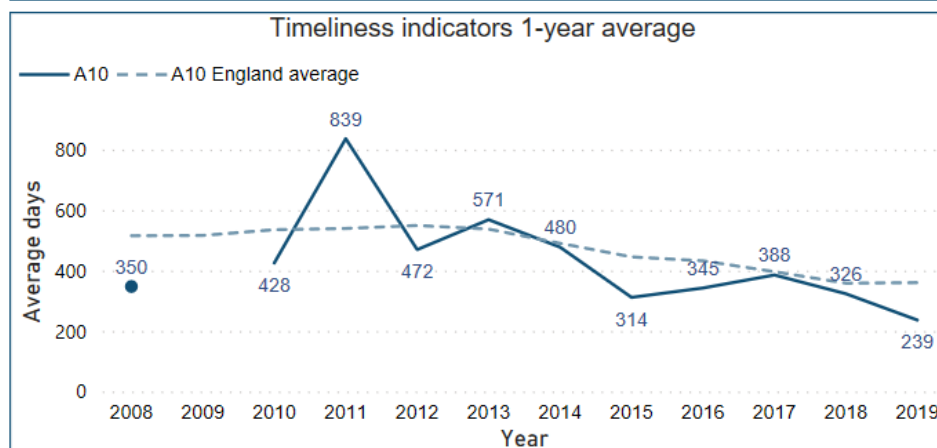
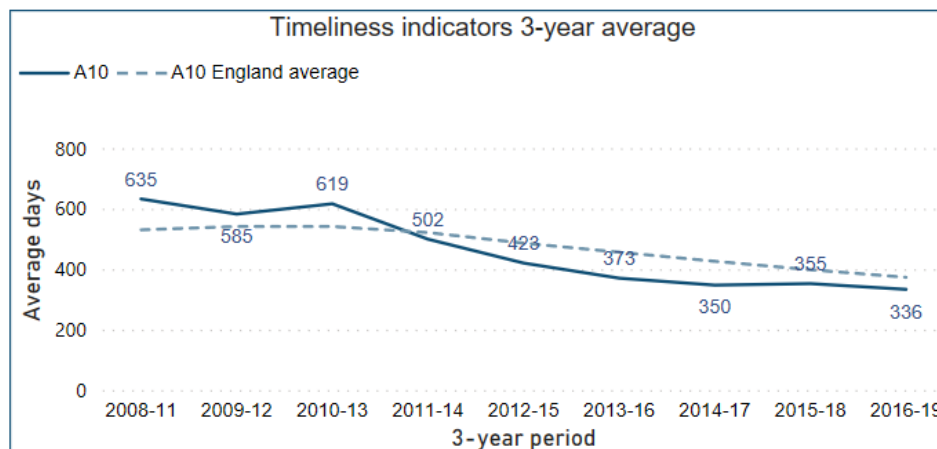
☐ Select all
☒ A10
☒ A10 England average
☐ A2
☐ A2 England average
☐ A20
☐ A20 England average

Select indicator(s) to display on graph:

☐ Select all
☒ A10
☒ A10 England average
☐ A2
☐ A2 England average
☐ A20
☐ A20 England average

RAA this LA is in:

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Related information - 2019		
A15: Number of ADM decisions:	A16: Number of new placement orders granted:	A17: Number of children in a FFA/Concurrent Planning foster placement:

Additional information - 2016-19			
A5: Number of children for whom permanence decisions have changed away from adoption:	Number of adoptions:	Number of adoptions: BME:	Number of adoptions: Aged 5 or over:
	Number of children starting to be looked after: Under the age of 5		

A10: Average time (in days) between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family adjusted for foster care adoptions:				
2019 average days:	2019 England average:	Average time in 2019 was shorter than in 2018	2016-19 average days:	2016-19 England average:
239	363		336	376

A2: Average time (in days) between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family:				
2019 average days:	2019 England average:	Average time in 2019 was shorter than in 2018	2016-19 average days:	2016-19 England average:
121	170		184	178

A20: Average time (in days) between entering care and placement order:				
2019 average days:	2019 England average:	Average time in 2019 was shorter than in 2018	2016-19 average days:	2016-19 England average:
143	256		178	257

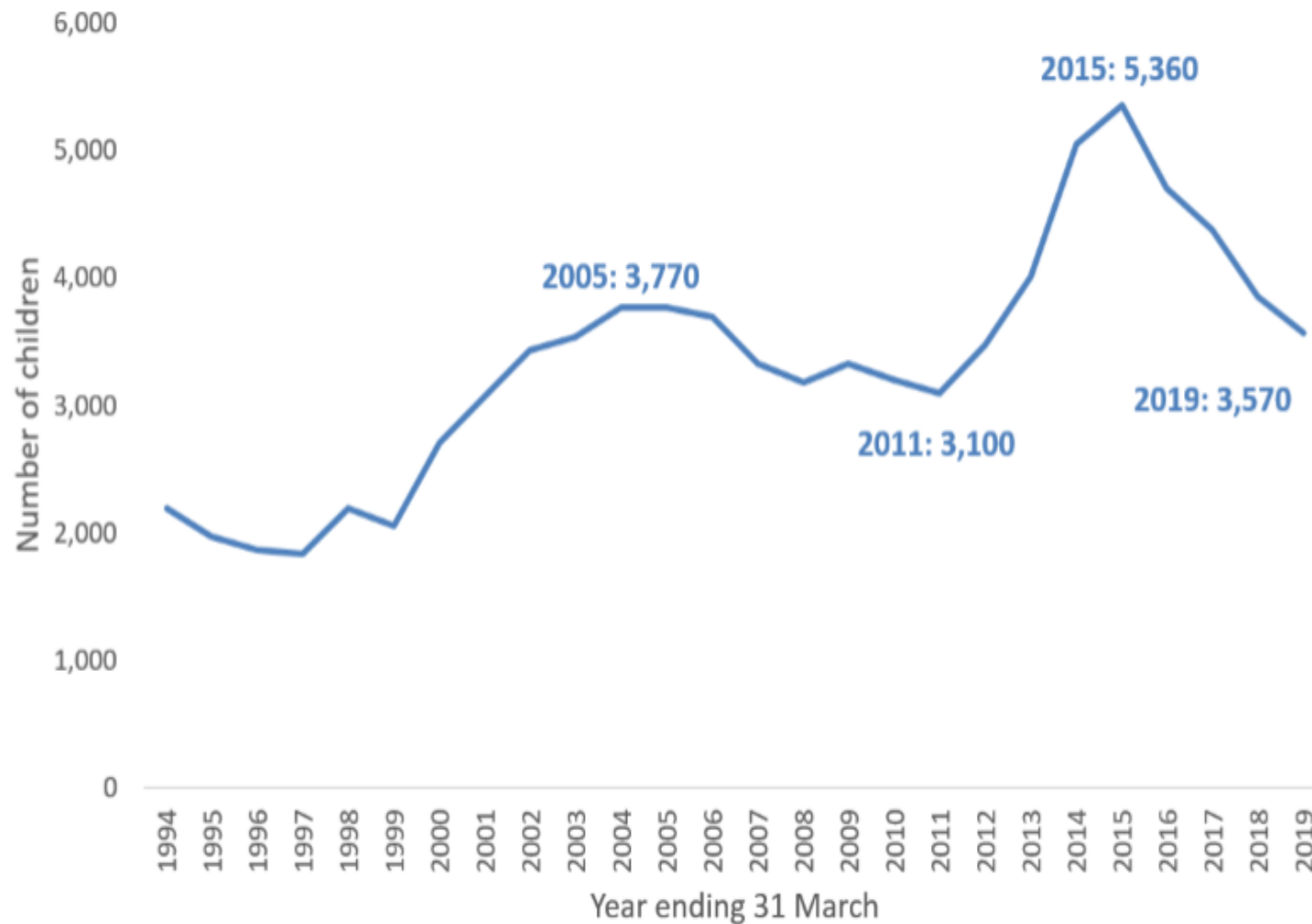
Matching and Recruitment (at 31 March 2019)	
A14: Number of children waiting to be placed with a placement order:	21
A11: Number of approved adoptive families waiting to be matched:	x
A13: Number of applications of adoptive families still being assessed:	20

Please see ASGLB local level files for further adopter measures. Where a LA is part of a RAA they will show as N/A for the A11 and A13 indicators.

Data from DfE ASGLB published 24/08/20

Adoptions from care continue to fall...

Looked after children who were adopted during the year



Children ceasing to be looked after during the year due to adoption fell by 7% to 3,570 - this continues the drop seen last year and is down from a peak of 5,360 in 2015.

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Agenda Item 11

Note of SO58 urgent decision teleconference with Chief Executive - Proposal to amalgamate Wimborne Infant and Wimborne Junior Schools - outcome of pre-statutory consultation - Wednesday 25 March 2020

Purpose: David Williams, Chief Executive, asked that a telephone conference facility be used for him to consult on the urgent decision required on the proposed amalgamation of Wimborne Infant and Junior Schools.

Reason for urgency: this item was identified as needing decision from the cancelled Education Cabinet of 25th March 2020, for which papers had been published, due to the Coronavirus measures meaning public meetings were suspended.

Teleconference Attendees:

Cllrs - Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE (Leader of the Council), Suzy Horton (Cabinet Member for Education), and Opposition spokesperson - Terry Norton.

Officers - David Williams (Chief Executive), Peter Baulf (City Solicitor), Chris Williams, (Pupil Place Planning & Capital Strategy Officer) Mike Stoneman (Deputy Director of Children and Families - Education) and Angel Mann (Finance Manager)

The SO58 referral and paper had been circulated to all the required consultees.

The Chief Executive asked Chris Williams to present his report. Chris referred everyone to table 1 in the report and outlined the statutory process for the closure of a maintained school. Officers had received 35 responses to the pre statutory consultation, with 34 in favour and 1 against. The person against had not indicated why they had this view. Mike Stoneman added that the response to the consultation had not been very high but this was not unexpected. The two schools federated in April 2019 and there had been a higher response to this consultation so a lot of the work had already been doing back in April.

Councillor Horton agreed that most of the preparation for this amalgamation had taken place in April when the schools federated. She said that as well as the positives for the two schools amalgamating including sharing resources and a shared leadership and vision, there was evidence that attainment levels dip when children transition from infant to junior and junior to secondary, so this would overcome that. The decision today was timely as the school wishes the decision to be in place for September.

Members' Comments

Councillor Norton said he had some concerns about a potential staff restructure as one of the reasons listed for merger was retainment and recruitment of staff. He said he did not want this to be followed up by a redundancy process, which often starts

with frontline staff and works its way up. It was important to highlight job security now more than ever. Councillor Horton agreed with this statement.

Chief Executive's Decision

David Williams said he was very happy to make the decision as recommended in the report and was satisfied that there was a good reason to proceed.

DECISION the Chief Executive:

- (1) considered the responses to the pre-statutory consultation carried out on the proposal to amalgamate Wimborne Infant and Junior Schools;**
- (2) authorised the Director for Children, Families and Education to proceed to the publication and representation stages of the statutory process to amalgamate Wimborne Infant and Junior Schools.**

(This decision would be reported to all members via the Members' Information Service on 27 March 2020)

Meeting duration: 4:00-4:15pm