

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education held on Wednesday, 26 January 2022 at 4.00 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillors Hugh Mason (Acting Chair on behalf of Councillor Horton)
Terry Norton
Judith Smyth

33. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Suzy Horton and Councillor Jeanette Smith.

34. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Norton declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest as he is employed at Mayfield School through a cover agency.

35. Dedicated Schools Grant Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring

The report was introduced by Alison Egerton, Group Accountant.

In response to question regarding the underspend in the high needs block, officers explained that as far as they were aware every child placed in a setting (mainstream for special school) with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) has received the appropriate funding. Over the course of the year they have started to see an increase in pupils with EHCP and they are expecting this increase to continue as we emerge from the pandemic.

At the end of the financial year, any underspend/overspend goes into the carry forward. It is ring-fenced within the Dedicated Schools Grant budget for use in future years.

DECISION:

The Cabinet Member noted the forecast year end budget position for the Dedicated Schools Grant as at 30 September 2021, together with the associated explanations contained within this report.

36. School Funding Arrangements 2022-23

The report was introduced by Angela Mann, Finance Manager.

In response to questions officers clarified the following:

In terms of the reduction of hours in early years, demographics are a major factor in this due to the falling birth rate. Some parents did hold back on sending their child to nursery, but this has recently increased and is getting back to near normal levels. Year R pupil numbers are lower, but this was forecasted due to a decrease in birth rates.

This was the same report that Schools Forum endorsed at their meeting last week.

DECISIONS: The Cabinet Member:

- **Approved the proposed changes to the mainstream schools revenue funding arrangements as set out in Section 5.**
- **Approved the school revenue funding pro-forma at Appendix 4 for submission to the ESFA on 21 January 2022.**
- **Approved the use of the carry forward on the Schools Specific Contingency for the same purpose in 2022-23.**
- **Approved the budget to be held centrally for the payment of central licences negotiated nationally for all schools by the Secretary of State.**
- **Approved the use of the 2021-22 underspend on the Growth Fund for use for the same purpose in 2022-23.**
- **Endorsed the Growth Fund:
Budget for 2022-23 as set out in Appendix 1
Criteria for 2022-23 as set out in Appendix 3**
- **Endorsed the budgets to be held centrally specifically:
Schools Forum
Admissions
Duties retained by the local authority for all schools**

The meeting concluded at 4.18 pm.

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Chair