

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

<i>Item & no.</i>	<i>SFG Decision</i>	<i>DEF Action</i>
Item 2 - High Needs Update	To inform DEF of the High need update	High needs update to be noted at DEF
Item 3 - DSG Outturn 2017/18	To inform DEF of the DSG Outturn 2017/18. Agreed finalised carry forward figures that were approved by DEF in March.	Finance report to be noted at DEF DEF to vote on carry forwards
Item 5 - FIPS Annual Report	To inform DEF of the FIPS Annual Report	FIPS Annual report update to be noted at DEF

SCHOOLS FINANCE GROUP
Notes of meeting
on 23 May 2018 at Marland School, Peters Marland

		Attendance			
		23/05/18	7/03/18	3/01/18	8/11/17
DCC					
Adrian Fox (Chair) (AF)	Head Accountant (Education & Learning)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Simon Niles SN)	Children's Services Strategic Manager		✓	Apologies	Apologies
Heidi Watson-Jones	Executive Personal Assistant				✓
Olivia Mitchell	Apprentice Personal Assistant				✓
Heather Bingham (HB)	Service Support Officer		✓	✓	
DAPH – PRIMARY HEADS					
David Barnett DB)	Chudleigh Primary	✓	✓	✓	
Jonathan Bishop (JB)	Broadclyst Primary	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	✓
Alun Dobson (AD)	Marwood Primary	Apologies	✓	✓	✓
Jamie Stone (JS)	Denbury Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓
Paul Walker (PW)	First Federation	Apologies	✓	Apologies	✓
DASH – SECONDARY HEADS					
Daryll Chapman (DC)	Okehampton College	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lorraine Heath (LH)	Uffculme College	✓	Apologies	✓	✓
Gareth Roscoe (GR)	The Park Community School	Apologies	✓	Apologies	✓
Matthew Shanks(MS)	Education South West	Apologies	✓	✓	✓
SHAD – SENITIENT (SPECIAL SCHOOLS)					
Keith Bennett (KB)	Marland School	✓	✓	Apologies	✓
Jacqui Warne (JW)	Learn to Live Federation	Apologies	Apologies	✓	✓
DAG – GOVERNORS					
Faith Butler (FB)	Special	✓	Apologies	Apologies	✓
Malcolm Dobbins (MD)	Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jill Larcombe (JL)	Secondary			Apologies	
Alex Walmsley (AW)	Secondary	✓	✓	✓	✓
EARLY YEARS PROVIDERS					
Sandra Barnett (SB)	Early Years / for PVI providers	✓	✓	✓	✓
In Attendance:					
Julia Foster	DCC - SEN Strategy Manager	✓	✓	✓	✓
Katrina Callcutt	DCC – Finance		✓	✓	✓
Dawn Stabb	Head of Education & Learning	✓	Apologies	Apologies	✓
Mat Thorpe	Senior Assistant County Treasurer		✓		
Karlien Bond	DCC – Finance	✓	✓		
Donna Anstiss	DCC – Finance	✓			
Velda Woodruff	DCC – SEN 0-25 Team	✓			

1. Item/Focus: Minutes and Matters Arising from meeting on 7th March 2018

Discussion: Actions/updates from 07.03.18 checked through and comments noted as follows:

ITEM 4: SEND (Page 1 Notes)

DS updated regarding the funding which JF presented around joint funding for residential places between Children Social Care, Adult Social Care and Health. JF has made great progress. The Head of Adult Social Care, Head of Children Social Care, JF and DS met. They have an agreement on the Children Social Care side – they are going to pay £280k to offset the cost of the residential care costs for children, which is the full amount allocated to children. JF is working with the Social Care Team to organise a way forward to ensure it happens as a matter of course in the future.

JF is currently going through the cases for the adult section with Adult Social Care to come to a similar arrangement.

Also, as part of the work being done around becoming independent, there is a corporate project that is looking at how to support children with EHCP Plans through the transition process and looking at a whole different way of working. A very small pilot has been set where there is no separate budget, operating on deficit budget within the Council to look at how you can operate differently if it's not spilt up between different teams.

ITEM 2b: GROWTH POLICY – SECONDARY GROWTH

AF: Confirmed that the amendments had been agreed by DEF and that the DFE have accepted the amendments within the growth criteria.

ITEM 4: SEND/HIGH NEEDS

JF requested amendment to the second bullet point:

- "CiC 50% in residential special schools" and it's not what it means is "there is 50% contribution from Social Care for children not in residential special schools."

Key Decision/ Issues for DEF:	Minutes were agreed as an accurate record.
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Action:	
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2. Item/Focus: High Needs Update

Information and Discussion:

DA referred to the Month 1 Report and in particular the High Needs Block.

Reporting a potential overspend of £1.1m for this financial year, it includes bringing forward the carry forward of £1.6m from 17/18. Also built into that projection is the management action so the overspend is after the agreed management actions has taken place.

Alternative provision overspending – fresh from the top up budget, basically where over placements and where budgeted by Section 52. This is where the £657k cash has come from. A saving will be made against initial outcomes for the summer term.

Maintained Special Schools - £878k savings projected. The slippage of Charlton Lodge opening now in September 2019 has been allowed for in the budget. Reduction of planned residential placements. Budgeted for all the special schools to be full which is why it is showing little saving at the moment. JF reported the one showing in the maintained special schools is for CiC – what was asked for was the same consideration for those CiC who weren't in the maintained special schools to be applied – that was agreed about November time.

An overspend showing on the Special School fees which are the independent special schools, management action is built into the budget. Overspend due to over budgeted numbers, the management action has not yet commenced as waiting for the summer term and to know the number of students leaving.

Support centres showing a slight saving, just changes in the way that they are being funded but that is all still to be agreed. JF reported with the support centres they are still funding the CAIRBS, there has been no change to what was agreed previously.

DS gave a very brief update on the Medical Placements which is part of the Devon Inclusion Project.

One of the strands is looking at specifically around medical placements and apparently 100 medical placements were commissioned last year from the High Needs Block. There are currently 127 children taking up a medical placement. DfE guidance states what has to be provided from the time the child is redeemed unfit to attend school. Whilst this work has been going on within the Devon Inclusion Project, DS has also been meeting with the Local Medical Councils, and the Clinical Commissioning Groups trying to find a better way of working with the children.

DS was pleased to inform SFG she has agreed in principal a joint funded project with the Clinical Commissioning Group to get higher priority referrals to CAHMs or Consultant Paediatricians for children that are deemed unable to attend school due to medical conditions and accessing one of the medical places defined above. The aim is that within six weeks they will have access to an assessment from the appropriate professional for their particular need. That professional will then help determine the kind of intervention they need with a priority referral or advise the child can reintegrate into school and advise on the support required for them.

If agreed the Project would be piloted in the East of the County for a term due to other health projects going on in other areas of the County. This is a joint funded project, SFG agreed that Education would jointly fund it and the potential amount of money being looked at is £150,000 and taken from the High Needs Block. DS is confident there will be some savings in this financial year. DS will therefore now move project to the next phase of planning.

JF/VW have been working on the Main Stream Funding descriptors and the Provision descriptors that have been in place. VW has taken the lead on this in terms of implementing for the new EHCP process.

VW advised they had worked closely with Babcock and had input from schools to developing provision descriptors and have used those when developing a new EHC Plan. Looking at the provisions that have been in place. VW has taken the lead on this in terms of implementing this for the new EHCP process.

Looking at the provisions that have been described and then coming up with a level of funding which is the best fit for delivery of the provision within the Plan. The intervention will be that the calculator which they are using will be shared with schools as part of the consultation process.

In terms of the number of children who are already on EHC Plans with a level of funding will have consideration given as to how those levels of funding are moved into the new way of working. The proposal paper SFG were emailed was to obtain feedback on the different way that could be achieved. There is a significant number of existing statutory plans.

VW outlined the three options which were being put forward to SFG as referred to in JF's Report: High Needs B – proposals for implementing new funding descriptors.

JF advised the biggest issues with the 3rd option is some schools with EHC Plans are likely to have a budget change every month, although quite small it does make it difficult for when Schools are trying to plan. The other two remaining options would be done as one offs.

JF confirmed that Bandings are set roughly in line with Plymouth Banding and is very similar to Torbay. For a Devon Child in a Torbay School, the Torbay Band is applied and is recouped between the two Authorities. It is the same if children are in a Devon School, Devon Banding is applied and Devon recoup the funding from Torbay and Plymouth.

Action: JF – Individual letter to be sent to every school explaining what has been done, the funding levels and applying the best fit provision descriptors. Ensuring that it is very clear that an individual discussion will be had with all the schools to consider what can be done on the individual student basis in terms of discussing against child by child.

VW proposed an appeal process as set out and based on Item 5 of the Proposals for Implementation of JF's Report.

Recommendations:

- The Option most appropriate is Option 1, with some prioritisation.
- Reword some of the Descriptors that just apply to the F.E. environment.
- Moderation of on plus packages.

**Key Decision/
Issues for DEF:**

Actions:

DS – Will move to the next phase with the Medical Placements Project

JF – Letters to be sent out after half term. Meet with the biggest schools for discussions in the Summer Term with a view to introducing the changes in September.

JF - Obtain the Banding Levels from Torbay and Plymouth to share with SFG so a comparison of the Banding Levels can be made.

3. Item/Focus: DSG Outturn 2017/18

Discussion:

AF summarised his report to SFG.

DS said a huge thank you to the SEN Team, Finance Team and to the Schools through SFG for their intervention although they are not where they need to be but compared to where they were predicting they were going to be before the Management Action was implemented we are ending up with £1.6 m overspend across the HNB this year compared to the £2.5 m that was predicted and by the end of next year looking at that reducing down to £1.1 m. All those things that have been put into place have been hard work for everyone and has required everyone's support in helping move forward.

AF advised on the Growth Fund Position (copy to be forwarded to SFG). With the current £1.5 m achieved this year, currently looking at an overspend of £273,00 in 2018/19. For 2019/20 because of the additional £1 m going in for the one year which is based on what we are currently seeing, there would be a surplus of £731,000 in 2019/20.

**Key Decision/
Issues for DEF:**

Action:

AF – Forward to SFG a copy of the Growth Fund Position Report.

4. Item/Focus: Select Committee Inquiries / Update

Discussion:

There are two select committee Inquiries

- 1) The Schools and College Funding – due 30th May
- 2) Special Educational Needs and Disabilities – due 14th June.

DS sought feedback from SFG in terms of the key priority areas from schools points of view. SFG would like to ensure are all included in the submission from the Council.

Key Decision/ Issues for DEF:	
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Action:	DS to submit inquiries by deadlines
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5. Item/Focus: FIPS Annual Report

KBond referred to the FIPS Annual Statement report.

- Highlighting redundancies is where the majority of the spend was for 2017/18
- The Budget was very similar to 2016/17 but the spend was considerably higher.
- The FIPS Budget carry forward was £1.1m from 2016/17 and this year there will be a surplus of £1.4m to carry forward to 2018/19.

Key Decision/ Issues for DEF:	
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Action:	
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6. Item/Focus: Mutual Fund Board and appeals

AF Update:

- Outturn position is showing a surplus total of £435,00 after taking into account rebates and adjustments as previously agreed at the end of last year.
- Across the board this year is lower than previous. This is now three years where we are seeing the current funding position as prior to this we have changed the funding in mid-year so this gives a true view of the trends for the last three years for this
- There are no appeals this month.
- The current 2018/19 position – Premiums have come in this year of £716,000.
- Total number of schools in the Mutual Fund are 139.
- 6 School have joined in 2018/19 and 11 schools have left.

7. Item/Focus: Items for DEF

- High Needs 18/19 position will go forward
- Finance Report will go forward.
- FIPS Annual report will go forward