

Agenda Item

Report to School Forum
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For Information

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High Needs Block (HNB) Outturn 24-25 and 25-26 Projections

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 to inform Schools Forum of the HNB 24-25 Outturn Position and the 25-26 HNB Projections.

2. Background

2.1. A HNB report went to Forum in January outlining the proposed 25-26. This report outlines what the current projections are for this financial year.

2.2 The report also outlines the 2024-26 actual spend on HNB.

3. 2024-25 Outturn Position (Appendix 1)

3.1. The in-year deficit in 2024-25 was £1,594,769 and after underspend from other DSG Blocks was £581,807.
(Appendix 1)

3.2. The brought forward deficit was £18,459,281 meaning the deficit at 31st March 2025 was £19,041,088.

3.3. A deficit of £19m is significant but many LA's who are not in Project Safety valve have far greater deficits.

3.4 An in-year deficit of £581,807 is minor compared to other LA's and previous years in Bury.

3.5 The deficits across all LA's are huge and growing at an unsustainable level. There is a white paper due to be published which will outline the Governments SEN reform

plans. The implications of these plans will be the subject of a future report to Forum.

4. 2025-26 Projections (Appendix 1)

4.1 There are pressures in this year's projections: -

- Independent special schools £934k. This is due to a lack of internal SEN provision.
- The number of pupils requiring Alternative Provision is increasing. There is an AP strategy being produced and efforts are continually being made to re-integrate pupils back into mainstream settings. £753k

4.2 There are some underspends that help mitigate the above

- The take up of RP places is continually lower than what is planned. (£400k)
- The number of EHCP's projected in Bury schools is lower than what was projected in January. (£533k)

5 Overall Position Forecast March 2026

5.1 The forecast position for March 2026 is a deficit of £22.256m compared to a of £22.268m in January.

6. Project Safety Valve (PSV)

6.1 Bury is part of the PSV programme and is required to submit financial monitoring reports to the DFE on a quarterly basis. These figures project many years into the future.

6.2 The projections indicate a deficit of £34.6m by March 3032 and thereafter a reduction. These forecasts will be overridden by the implications of the pending SEN reform white paper.

7. Recommendations

7.1 Forum members are asked to note the contents of this report.

2024-25 Outturn £	High Needs Block 2025-26 Projection							
		Budget			Projection			Total Variance £
		Places	Unit Cost £	Total £	Places	Unit Cost £	Total £	
	<u>Expenditure</u>							
4,824,167	Millwood	190	28,814	5,462,720	184	28,819	5,302,735	-159,985
8,777,081	Elms Bank	356	25,830	9,195,620	356	26,866	9,564,335	368,715
1,147,215	Brookhaven	80	19,754	1,580,328	80	19,493	1,559,432	-20,896
1,586,628	Cloughside	62	25,889	1,605,140	62	25,889	1,605,140	0
2,774,968	Ash Grove PRU	136	22,677	3,084,040	136	23,149	3,148,253	64,213
19,110,060	Total Bury Special Schools	824	25,411	20,927,848	818	25,892	21,179,895	252,047
1,870,265	Resourced Provision	156	18,307	2,855,833	135	18,188	2,455,343	-400,490
13,171,881	Independent Special Schools	207	59,955	12,411,000	223	59,781	13,344,798	933,798
	EHCP Mainstream top Ups							
9,358,672	Bury Schools	1,333	8,717	11,622,000	1,193	9,276	11,068,490	-553,510
1,577,545	OOB Schools	143	11,773	1,680,000	162	11,286	1,828,028	148,028
1,787,292	Post 16 Places			1,957,000			1,868,000	-89,000
0	Early Years Top Ups			300,000			275,000	-25,000
893,968	Alternative Provision			978,500			1,731,802	753,302
747,735	Personal Budgets Therapy and FSM			670,000			918,853	248,853
48,517,418	Total Direct Support			53,402,181			54,670,209	1,268,028
144,761	(Primary and Secondary)			209,900			206,000	-3,900
359,993	Outreach Team			694,500			503,100	-191,400
194,280	Home and Hospital Tuition			121,600			219,500	97,900
968,032	Visual and Hearing Impairment			1,123,000			992,400	-130,600
1,667,065	Total SEN Support Services			2,149,000			1,921,000	-228,000
50,184,483	Total Expenditure			55,551,181			56,591,209	1,040,028

2024-25 Outturn £	High Needs Block 2025-26 Projection						
		Budget			Projection		
		Places	Unit Cost £	Total £	Places	Unit Cost £	Total £
	Income						
-47,578,209	High Needs Block DSG			-50,107,000			-50,589,838
1,194,000	Import/Export Adj			1,272,000			1,246,000
-721,811	Bury Block Transfer			-200,000			-312,570
-899,279	Health Service Contribution			-1,600,000			-1,000,000
0	General Fund Contribution			-2,000,000			-2,000,000
-48,005,298	Total Income			-52,635,000			-52,656,408
	<u>PSV Income and Expenditure</u>						
415,584	Expenditure			298,000			280,000
-1,000,000	Income			-1,000,000			-1,000,000
-584,416	Net PSV Contribution			-702,000			-720,000
1,594,769	NET Expenditure			2,214,181			3,214,801
							1,000,620