



Schools Forum

Wednesday, 11 October 2023 4.00 p.m.  
To be held remotely

S. Young

**Chief Executive**

*Please contact Ann Jones - Tel: 0151 511 8276 or email:  
ann.jones@halton.gov.uk for further information.  
The next meeting of the Committee is on Wednesday, 17 January 2024*

**ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH  
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**Part I**

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
<b>1. APOLOGIES</b>	
<b>2. MINUTES</b>	<b>1 - 4</b>
<b>3. MEMBERSHIP UPDATE</b>	
<b>4. PROVISIONAL DSG FUNDING FOR 2024-25</b>	<b>5 - 10</b>
<b>5. SEND CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATES</b>	<b>11 - 13</b>
<b>6. DELIVERING BETTER VALUES (DBV) PROGRAMME</b>	<b>14 - 17</b>

***In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.***

**SCHOOLS FORUM**

*At a meeting of the Schools Forum on Wednesday, 14 June 2023 held remotely*

Present:

A. Jones, Democratic Services, HBC  
 N Shafiq, Financial Management, HBC  
 J. Farrell, Education, Inclusion & Provision, HBC  
 S. Goodwin, Financial Management, HBC  
 K. Landrum, (Chair) Primary School with a Nursery Representative  
 J. Coughlan, Primary Representative - Infant School  
 N. Hunt, Pupil Referral Unit Representative  
 J. Wilson, Secondary Governor Representative  
 E. Haver, Special Academy Representative  
 A. Sheppard, VA Schools Representative  
 C. Dalton, Secondary Academy Representative  
 C. Liku, Community Nursery Schools Representative  
 E. Hall, All Through Schools Representative (Sub)

*Action*

SCF20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Ben Barton (16-19 Provision), Jane O'Connor (PVI) and Joanne Robertson (Small Primary).

SCF21 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 February were agreed as a correct record.

SCF22 DSG OUTTURN 2022-23

The Forum received a report informing of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Outturn for 2022-23.

It was reported that the final amount of DSG allocated to Halton for 2022-23 was £135,992,777, which was split as follows:

Schools Block	£102,178,425
CSSB	£728,189
Early Years Block	£9,276,678
High Needs Block	£23,809,485

The report provided detailed commentary for each of these Blocks, which highlighted any recoupments, overspends and underspends. A detailed analysis of the final 2022-23 outturn position was provided at Appendix A.

The Forum noted that with this year's DSG overspend (£1,036,363) and carry forward deficit balance from the previous financial year (£1,856,222), there was a total DSG deficit of £2,892,585, which would be carried forward into 2023-24.

In relation to the High Needs Block, the ongoing pressures being experienced due to increasing numbers of pupils requiring an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) was recognised by Representatives and noted that this situation was not unique to Halton, it was a countrywide issue. The in-year overspend for the High Needs Block was £1,322,188. The particular areas of overspend were outlined in the report.

Representatives were advised that due to this accumulating deficit in the High Needs Block, Halton has been included in tranche 3 of the DfE's *Delivering Better Value* (DBV) Programme. Further details of this will be brought to the Forum at the October meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Schools Forum

- 1) note the overall deficit balance of DSG from 2022-23 of £2,892,585, is carried forward into the 2023-34 financial year; and
- 2) note the continuing pressures on the High Needs Block, resulting in an in year overspend of £1,322,188.

Financial  
Management,  
HBC

#### SCF23 SCHOOL BALANCES 2022-23

The Forum considered a report of the Operational Director – Finance, which reported the level of Revenue and Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) funding brought forward from 2022-23 by Halton's Maintained Schools.

Whilst balances were still required to be reported to the Schools Forum, no excess surplus balance limits were currently in place. Despite this, the Forum retained the right to require schools to provide further information as to how their balance will be spent, should they so decide.

Representatives were referred to Appendix A, which showed the Revenue balances for each maintained school, along with their 2021-22 balance for comparison. It was noted that the net surplus schools budget balances position for Halton's maintained schools, at the end of 2022-23 was £7,306,885. This was a decrease of £226,306 (3%) when

compared to last year.

Appendix B of the report showed the Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) balances for each maintained school, along with their 2021-22 balance for comparison. This showed an increase of £449,471 to £657,380 at the end of 2022-23.

One Representative requested clarity as to why some schools' carry over balances were so high. In particular, those schools that had presented consistently high carryovers for the past few years and those that had a 12% or above figure.

In response it was agreed that transparency was important across the board and some explanations were provided relating to some schools high balances. In relation to academy balances, it was possible to report these to the Forum but they would be lagged, due to them having a September to August financial year.

It was commented that a more strategic approach to reducing the High Needs deficit was required and it was suggested that some excess carryover money could be used for this. The Forum discussed the potential of the DBV Programme in relation to this suggestion and Finance Officers would explore this as a possibility during their work with the DfE.

RESOLVED: That Schools Forum note the report and comments made.

Financial  
Management,  
HBC

#### SCF24 SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS 2023

The Forum received the latest version of Halton Scheme for Financing Schools (SFFS), as updated for 2023; this document was appended to the report.

Applicable to Maintained schools only, it was reported that the Department for Education (DfE) had not issued any *Directed Revisions* or material updates since the last Scheme, approved for 2021, so there were no revisions that required consultation with schools for 2023.

The updates to Annexes A and E as outlined in the report were agreed. Finance Officers would prepare a summary and circulate to schools.

RESOLVED: That Schools Forum

- 1) note the report and approve the updates; and
- 2) agree to the latest version being made available, as statutorily required, to all Maintained schools and on the Council's website for public inspection.

Financial  
Management,  
HBC

*Meeting ended at 4.50 p.m.*

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Schools' Forum</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> October 2023</b>
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	<b>Operational Director - Finance</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Provisional DSG funding for 2024-25</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>Borough wide</b>

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To update and consult the Schools' Forum on the Dedicated Schools Grant provisional funding for 2024-25.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

- 2.1 The report is noted.
- 2.2 Schools Forum support the continuation of the National Funding Formula (NFF) methods, principles and rules for mainstream primary and secondary school funding allocations for 2024-25.
- 2.3 Schools Forum agree to make a decision on the level of Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) to be applied to the Schools Block funding formula for 2024-25.
- 2.4 Schools Forum agree to make a decision on the National Funding Formula (NFF) unit values to be applied to the mainstream Schools and academies funding formula for 2024-25

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **3.1 Grant settlement**

The provisional Dedicated Schools Grant settlement for 2024-25 was announced on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 giving Halton a total of £140,756,493 for the Schools Block, Central Schools Services Block and High Needs Block.

The DfE have indicated that the Early Years Block provisional settlement for 2024-25 will be announced in December.

### **3.2 Schools Block**

The Schools Block provisional allocation is £112,914,268, based on the October 2022 census data which is an increase of £2.722m or 2.5% when compared to the actual Schools Block allocation for 2023-24 inclusive of the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG) which has been rolled into the Schools Block for 2024-25.

Inclusive of MSAG, the Primary Unit of Funding (PUF) is increasing from £5,215.18 to £5,545.55 for 2024-25 and the Secondary Unit of Funding (SUF) is increasing from £6,648.26 to £7,012.20 for 2024-25.

The PUF and SUF increases for 2024-25 will be multiplied by the number of primary and secondary age pupils counted on the October 2023 census to give our final Schools Block allocation which will be announced in December.

Please note that the PUFs and SUFs are used solely to calculate the amount of funding due to the LA and do not represent any individual Schools Block funding formula factor.

For schools and academies formula funding the DfE have uplifted the cash values of most factors within the National Funding Formula (NFF) by on average 2.4%.

The DfE have provided indicative models of what each school would receive using the uplifted NFF cash values against the October 2022 census data and is available for information at: [National funding formula tables for schools and high needs: 2024 to 2025 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115444/nff_tables_for_schools_and_high_needs_2024_to_2025.pdf)

From 2023-24 Halton has fully mirrored the NFF funding factors. The DfE have not proposed any material changes to the NFF structure for 2024-25 other than to develop a more detailed formula for Split Site allocations which is not applicable to Halton as we have no schools eligible for Split Site funding.

### 3.3 Central Schools Services Block

The provisional CSSB allocation is £740,944 based on pupil numbers on the October 2022 census plus £15,434 for the Historical funding giving a provisional total of £756,378. Once again, the final allocation will be based on the October 2023 census data. The Historic commitment funding has again reduced by 20% and as this is used to fund the Safeguarding post, the balance required to be met by schools & academies will also increase, as previously agreed.

The individual budgets to be funded from the CSSB for 2023-24 will be presented at the January meeting.

### 3.4 High Needs Block

The provisional High Needs Block allocation has been announced as £27,085,847 before Further Education (FE) recoupment but including a deduction of £0.366m for Halton children being educated in other areas, known as Exports. This represents an increase from 2023-24, including the Special schools equivalent to MSAG, of £0.951m or 3.6%.

We estimate the FE recoupment will be £0.924 for 2024-25 leaving £26,161,847 available to support Special Educational Needs and/or



Disabilities (SEND) eligible pupils and increasing cost pressures including, Halton's Specialist provisions, Pupil Referral Unit, (PRU), Mainstream Resourced Units, Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) top-up funding, Out-borough high-cost Independent and Non-Maintained Specialist (INMS) providers, and specialist support services.

The individual High Needs Block budgets will be presented at the February meeting.

3.6 Minimum Funding Guarantee

The MFG continues in 2024-25 with a permissible range of 0.0% to plus 0.5%, meaning that a school's per pupil amount must increase by a minimum of 0.5% compared to the previous year.

It is not possible to say what level of MFG we can afford until after the October 2023 census data and final grant allocation for 2024-25 is received, however it is envisaged that the maximum 0.5% MFG will be able to be applied as in previous years. The final grant settlements are typically released less than a week before Christmas and it is envisaged it will be mid-January before the final calculations are available for Schools' Forum consideration.

**Schools' Forum are therefore requested to recommend the MFG in principle at 0.5%, noting that any affordability issues will be brought back to the January 2024 meeting of Forum for their final recommendation.**

3.7 Schools Block Funding Formula

It is proposed to continue to follow the National Funding Formula (NFF), using the NFF cash values where possible. Affordability has not been an issue in recent years where Halton has mirrored the NFF values, therefore it is expected that the final Schools Block grant allocation will be sufficient to fully fund at the NFF cash values for 2024-25.

The NFF formula values being proposed to be applied to Halton's school funding formula are detailed at Appendix A.

**Schools' Forum are therefore requested to recommend the use of all NFF values for the determination of schools and academies formula funding for 2024-25, noting that any affordability issues will be brought back to the January 2024 meeting of Forum for their final recommendation.**

**4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 We are required to set a local funding formula in line with the Schools Block operational guidance for 2024-25. Failure to do so will result in the DfE imposing a funding formula on us.

**5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

**5.1 Children & Young People in Halton**

It is essential that schools and education support services receive sufficient funding to allow them to support all children and young people.

**5.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None.

**5.3 A Healthy Halton**

None.

**5.4 A Safer Halton**

None.

**5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

None.

**6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

6.1 We need to comply with the regulations otherwise could have formula imposed on us.

**7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

7.1 The Local Authority must discharge its statutory responsibilities in relation to all schools and settings.

**8.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 None identified.

**Consultation on the Schools Block Funding Formula****Funding Formula**

We are required to consult with Schools' Forum on the method, principles and rules adopted for the funding formula to be applied to mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies.

As you will be aware we have followed the National Funding Formula (NFF) method, principles and rules, and mirrored the NFF values for several years. We are recommending that we continue this and apply the unit values as per the table below.

**The NFF 2024-25 for recommendation is:**

<u>Factor</u>	<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Primary NFF value 24-25</u>	<u>Secondary NFF value 24-25</u>
Basic per Pupil	A set level of funding according to age for each pupil.	£3,611	£5,091 KS3 £5,739 KS4
Deprivation - FSM	Funding for pupils who are currently eligible for FSM.	£492	£492
Deprivation – FSM Ever 6	Funding for pupils who have been eligible for FSM at some point in the previous 6 years.	£833	£1,215
Deprivation – IDACI	Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index. Funding is based on the deprivation level assigned to each pupil's home post code, banded A to G. However funding is only allowed for bands A to F.	F £236 E £286 D £452 C £492 B £522 A £689	F £346 E £457 D £637 C £698 B £753 A £954
Low Prior Attainment	Primary – where pupils have not achieved the expected level of development at EYFSP. Secondary – where pupils have not achieved the expected standard in KS2 at either reading, writing or maths.	£1,189	£1,797
English as an Additional Language	Pupils identified with a first language other than English can be funded for up to the first three years of statutory schooling. We fund for the maximum period of three years.	£597	£1,611

Pupil Mobility	Provides funding for pupils who enter a school other than at the start of Autumn Term. A minimum threshold applies of 6% of pupil numbers. This is now a mandatory factor.	£974	£1,400
Sparsity	Funding for small schools located in areas where pupils would have to travel a set minimum distance to the next nearest school. This is now a mandatory factor.	Year Group size and distance tapers as per DfE	Year Group size and distance tapers as per DfE
Minimum Level of Per-pupil funding	A mandatory factor. <i>Combines all pupil-led factors and is not a stand-alone amount.</i>	£4,655	£5,824 KS3 £6,389 KS4
Total Pupil-led factors	Each LA is required to allocate at least 80% of the delegated Schools Block funding through the above pupil-led factors.	23-24 was 92%	23-24 was 92%
Lump Sum	An amount per school up to a maximum of £175,000. Can be different for primary and secondary schools.	£136,212	£136,212
Split Sites	No schools in Halton are eligible for funding under this factor.	n/a	n/a
LA Rates	LA Rates	Estimates will be set in December based on latest uplift information.	
PFI contracts	A factor to support schools that have unavoidable premises costs due to being a PFI school. In Halton we use a per pupil rate. RPIX increase of 11.2% as per DfE Guidance.	n/a	£416.23
Exceptional Premises	In Halton, this is for the joint use of leisure facilities by contractual agreement with one school increased annually in line with RPIX at 11.2%	n/a	£178,227
Minimum Funding Guarantee	The MFG can be set between 0% and +0.5%.	0.5%	0.5%

*All unit values above are rounded to the nearest £ for presentational purposes*

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Schools Forum</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> October 2023</b>
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	<b>Operational Director – Education, Inclusion and Provision</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>SEND Capital Programme Updates</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>Borough wide</b>

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To update Schools' Forum on the progress of SEND capital programme linked to the 2022 SEND sufficiency strategy

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

- 2.1 The report is noted. Schools' Forum members are informed of the SEND capital position and planned increase for resource base provision during the academic year 2023-2024

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **3.1 SEND capital Programme:**

Following notification from the Department for Education that Halton would be allocated £3.3M of capital funding (High Needs Provision Capital Allocation) to support the provision of new places or to expand existing provision for pupils and students with high needs, officers wrote to all schools to seek expressions of interest from them to offer new or additional SEND provision at their school, based against need identified within the local authority.

During Autumn term 2022, the SEND sufficiency Strategy 2022 was shared with schools outlining SEND provision available and gaps in provision within borough related to a range of designated needs. Schools were asked to submit Expressions of interest if they were able to provide any provision for the identified gaps based on our needs and sufficiency analysis.

On 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023 the Executive Board approved a statutory consultation process for five schools in Halton – four primary and one secondary, to offer new Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) provision alongside their current mainstream provision. The Board also agreed to the progression of capital works at two Halton primary schools who already offered specialist provision and were not subject to statutory consultation (Oakfield Primary School in Widnes, and Woodside Primary School in Runcorn).

The Board were also advised that officers were due to hold discussions with other schools in Halton with regard to the expansion of their existing SEND provision and would report back to the Board accordingly. Those discussions have taken place and Ashley School, Brookfields School, and Kingsway Academy, have also offered to expand their existing SEND provision to help meet need.

A summary of the responses to the public consultations for the five schools where the SEND provision would be new provision was also shared with Executive Board. The consultation ran between 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023, and sought approval to proceed with the new provision at those schools, and to the expansion of existing provision at Ashley School, Brookfields School, and Kingsway Academy, using High Needs Provision Capital funding from the Department for Education to fund the capital works required at all schools. Responses from the consultation were positive.

During summer term, feasibility work was carried out across the schools whom submitted expressions of interest and work is planned across these provisions with some work already started.

### **3.2 Next Steps:**

Over the course of the 2023-2024 academic year, schools with the new or expanding resource base provision will work closely with the SEND service ensuring consistent Service Level Agreements, support and funding arrangements are agreed. Schools will open their provision once building works are completed, staff trained and recruited and pupils will be allocated as appropriate according to need. Cluster networks, training and support from a range of teams will ensure that all schools with resource base provision will have the support system and network to share effective practice and further develop knowledge across the borough.

## **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Capital Funding is allocated to these approved new resource base provision and the aforementioned expansions. Following completion of building works if further funding is available, then further opportunities to submit interest will be shared. The development of new resource based provision will have a positive impact on high needs Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) with a reduction over time of high cost specialist out of borough provision. Such provision will also reduce demands on home to school transport costs for eligible children and young people with SEND.

## **5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### **5.1 Children & Young People in Halton**

It is essential that children and young people's needs are met in a timely and effective manner, but also securing best value for all. Increasing

specialist provision within borough to meet the needs of our children and young people with SEND, will positively impact children being educated on their local community.

**5.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None.

**5.3 A Healthy Halton**

None.

**5.4 A Safer Halton**

None.

**5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

None.

**6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

6.1 Expansion of provision within Halton will reduce long term financial risk .

**7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

7.1 The Local Authority must discharge its statutory responsibilities in relation to all schools and settings and children and young people with SEND.

**8.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 None identified.

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Schools Forum</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> October 2023</b>
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	<b>Operational Director – Education, Inclusion and Provision</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Delivering Better Values Programme (DBV)</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>Borough wide</b>

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To update Schools' Forum on the Delivering Better Values Programme across Halton Borough.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

- 2.1 The report is noted. Schools' Forum members understand the need to engage fully with the Delivering Better Values (DBV) Programme in order to identify and implement long term system change to help alleviate financial risk and overspend.
- 2.2 Schools Forum members encourage education/Early Years colleagues; wider stakeholders; parents/carers and children and young people with SEND to engage with Newton Europe and CIPFA to share views and experiences to inform diagnostic position and shape grant application process and system change as part of DBV programme.

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Delivering Better Values:  
Delivering Better Values (DBV) is a DFE programme where Halton have been identified due to our high needs Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) overspend position. We are amongst a third of Local Authorities identified in this middle tier programme. Halton LA are working g with Newton Europe and CIPFA (commissioned by the government to lead the DBV programme) to help identify the causes of high needs overspend and then apply for up to £1 million of funding to take steps to reduce our high needs DSG overspend by planning and implementing long term system change.

Local authority officers have been providing data relating to the numbers of children and young people with an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP); their age ranges and primary areas of need, alongside financial information to support the discovery and diagnostic phase. This data is being collated, analysed in order to identify pressure points



across our system and help to identify key drivers for overspend. This work has already outlined that caseload is our biggest driver of expenditure, with our high needs budget expenditure increasing by 68% over the last 6 years.

Analysis also identified that Halton have seen the second highest growth rate in mainstream EHCP's nationally. Our main primary areas of need are Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) in the primary phase and ASD, SLCN and Social Emotional and Mental health needs (SEMH) in the secondary phase. ASD and SLCN as a primary need account for seven out of 10 new starts in mainstream special schools and for CYP in the secondary transition years, i.e., ages 11 to 12, ASD, SLCN and SEMH are the main primary needs, accounting for 85% of all Children and Young People. SLCN, ASD and SEMH are the main primary needs accounting for nearly 90% of all EHCP starts in Mainstream schools.

Analysis shows that primary and secondary transition years across all provisions are the ages when most children and young people start with an EHCP. Case reviews and engagement with stakeholders will consider why these transition years' experience such an increase and how needs can be met and transitions supported to reduce such a significant increase in EHCP's at these phases. Enquiries will also consider how needs can be supported in a timely way.

Unlike other provisions, Halton see a high age distribution of new starts across secondary years in Independent Non- Maintained Special School settings (INMSS). Understanding how we can support this cohort in non-independent settings means we focus our resources more evenly on the rest of the population.

Unit cost prices have been analysed and whilst there have been increases in placement costs these are not seen as a key driver for Halton's high needs DSG overspend, caseload is the greatest pressure point.

Officers attended national DBV training throughout August and early September to focus upon further discovery work and plans to engage with stakeholders during the Autumn term of 2023 leading to an application for funding during December 2023-January 2024. As part of this programme, the Local Authority will submit an application for up to one million pounds of funding to cover long term system change aiming to meet needs in an effective and cost efficient way to reduce overspend on the high needs dedicated schools grant (DSG).

### 3.2 **Next Steps:**

Case reviews are currently ongoing and surveys have been shared and are available on the Local Offer, for parents/carers; education and wider professionals, children and young people to complete and return. Engagement from all stakeholder groups is vital to gain a representative

understanding of experience and how practice across the system can improve and help to reduce high needs spend.

Once all data analysis, survey findings and case reviews have been completed, forecast information will be shared by Newton Europe and CIPFA to identify the potential trajectory.

Stakeholders will work closely with Newton Europe and CIPFA to use identified drivers and caseload volume details to inform strategic plan to drive positive change. Focused priorities for action will form part of the DBV grant application process and will be submitted through December. The first modules one and two will be signed off formally by strategic leaders and submitted to DFE via Newton Europe and CIPFA.

If grant applications are approved by DFE during early 2024, funding will be released and officers and stakeholders will work closely with CIPFA and Newton Europe to progress through an implementation phase of plans to address system change and will work through to achieving a sustainable model moving forwards.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Current financial implications on the forecast trajectory would lead to significant growth in high needs DSG overspend. Acting decisively and implementing an approved DFE plan informed by key drivers for EHCP growth and overspends, will lead to £1million funding to drive system change and will result in both cost avoidance and savings. Forecast information will be shared once full analysis has been completed.

#### **5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### **5.1 Children & Young People in Halton**

It is essential that children and young people's needs are met in a timely and effective manner, but also securing best value for all. Acting upon detailed analysis, bespoke to Halton needs, local context and systems, will lead to improved practice to meet the needs of our children and young people with SEND.

##### **5.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None.

##### **5.3 A Healthy Halton**

None.

##### **5.4 A Safer Halton**

None.

##### **5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

None.

**6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

6.1 We need to engage fully with the DBV programme to reduce long term financial risk.

**7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

7.1 The Local Authority must discharge its statutory responsibilities in relation to all schools and settings and children and young people with SEND.

**8.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 None identified.