
SUBJECT: SEND/High Needs Block Update
DATE: 21st January 2025
RECIPIENT: Schools' Forum

SUMMARY:

The Schools' Forum is asked to note:

Responses to Matters Arising from the December meeting:

- Updated EHCP demand forecast
- Current position on the High Needs Block and deficit
- HNB projections for next year and pressures moving forward

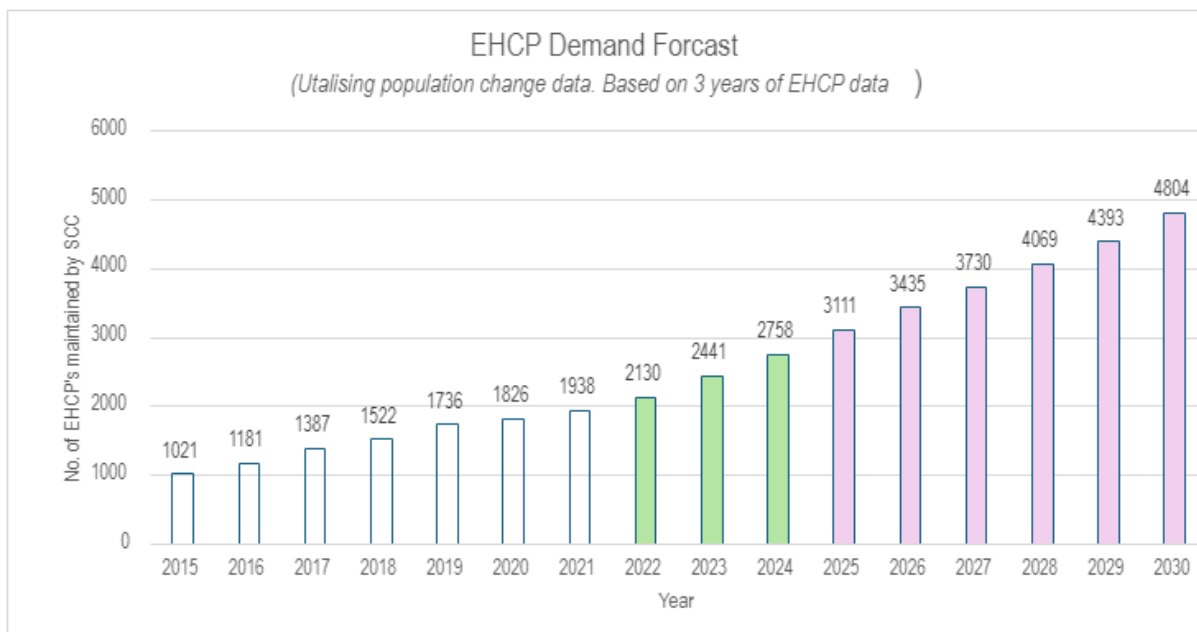
And general update items

- Report on the Time Limited Mainstream Inclusion Grant
- Updates on the £740m capital grant for mainstream school enhancements and resourced provisions (*standing report item*)

Updated EHCP demand forecast

These are figures currently in the deficit management plan, the 2024 figure will be revised once the final SEND2 reporting phase is complete at the end of March.

Please note that the data capture is January each year for the previous year.



Current position with high needs block and deficit.

We are on track to reduce the HNB deficit by £1.5m this financial year. This is a slight improvement on the initial projection of £1.2m and is down primarily to cautious budgeting.

This will bring the remaining deficit figure to £5.606m carry forward into financial year 2025/26.

At the time of writing, we do not have any indication of the extension of the statutory over-ride for the repayment of the deficit from the General Fund which is currently March 31st 2026. We do anticipate that this will be extended.

HNB projections for next year and pressures moving forward.

The indicative income amount for the HNB for 2025/2026 is £50,180,007.

Following the various recoupmets the remaining amount to be issued to Southampton is c£43,778,406. (*indicative figures from the DfE include c£5.48m of recoupmets but this does not include the place changes which we believe will add an additional £0.91m*)

There are a number of known adjustments planned for 2025/26, these include:

- Increase in Pupil Referral Unit funding for permanently excluded children (not EHCP bandings) (*decision pending ED approval and likely to be backdated to 1/4/2024*)
- Increase of 7% for hospital school funding as per DfE guidance
- Additional funding for post 16 places following a review of numbers this financial year
- Provisional allocation for the mainstream cluster funding programme should that continue following the pilot phase
- EHCP allocation plus 11% as per the indicative increase in numbers from January 2024 to January 2025
- Extension to the SIP funding to allow for the SEMH DBV work to continue to the end of the financial year pending a decision as to the future beyond then
- Increase in funding for the Newlands HI Unit as there have been no running costs associated with this provision previously and we can no longer rely on vacancy savings
- Maintenance of 10 additional AV Bots for the provision of accessible education to learners under Section 19 and also with EBSA
- General 3% uplift as standard

In addition we anticipate there being additional, non-quantified, pressures that we will need to take into consideration, these include:

- Any proposed deficit reduction target
- Additional costs associated with revenue costs for resourced provisions/SEN units in mainstream schools
- Additional costs potentially associated with the EHCP banding review currently underway in special schools but due to extend to all EHCPs over time – early findings are suggesting that this may need to be more heavily resourced
- An urgent request for a review of funding for one of our resourced provisions (50 EHCP places so critical to place planning)

The non-quantified pressures will need to be covered by the remainder of the budget once the known adjustments have been accounted for.

Currently, and pending further refinement of the budgets, the budget remainder is £2,075,910.

Report on the Time Limited Mainstream Inclusion Grant

This early report on trends and key themes can be found here for the context:

[Time Limited Mainstream Inclusion Grant](#)

With a click down to the report here:

[Time Limited Mainstream Inclusion Grant report](#)

Update on the £740m capital funding to support mainstream

As at January 8th there is no further update but we will keep this on the report agenda as requested.

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