

# DSG Deficit Management Plan 2024-2025



- The [dedicated schools grant \(DSG\): conditions of grant 2023 to 2024](#) paragraph 5.2, requires that any local authority with an overall deficit on its DSG account at the end of the 2022 to 2023 financial year, or whose DSG surplus has substantially reduced during the year, must be able to present a plan to the Department for Education (DfE) for managing their future DSG spend



DfE say: We encourage all local authorities to use the template as a planning tool. It will be useful when discussing proposals and sharing complex funding information in a simple way with internal and external bodies, parent and carer forums and elected members. We expect the plan to be updated and presented at school's forum meetings and any high needs sub-groups regularly, and at least on a termly basis



## Current Position

2022 – 2023 £868,000 Deficit

2023 – 2024 £5,467,391 Predicted Deficit

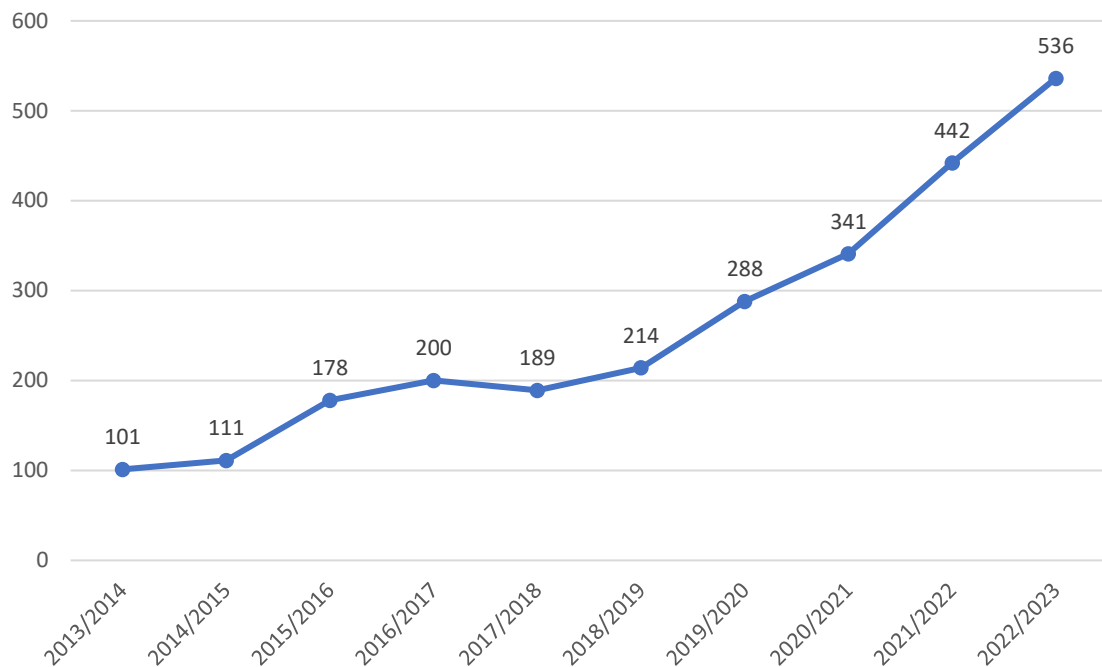


# WHY?

- Significant increase in EHCP's
- Significant increase in request for Special School places
- Increased use of Independent Non- Maintained Special Schools
- Increase in permanent exclusions
- Increase in school requests for additional top up funding



Total New EHCNA Requests



EHCP's	2023	2024	2025	2026
Mainstream	1216	1470	1772	2147
Main Special	541	605	676	757
Ind Special	183	229	287	358



## Independent Placements

- 55 additional placements agreed since January 2023. This equates to an increase of £4.4 million per academic year





## Permanent Exclusions (cost = £26k per place)

Year	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Total Number of Permanent Exclusions upheld	34	41	78	98
Calderdale Exclusion Rate (exclusions as % of school population)	0.10%	0.13%	0.259%	0.294%



## Requests for additional Top Up

- Each week we receive at least 5 requests for additional top up funding
- In the Autumn Term we received requests totalling an average of an additional £16 500 per week which equates to approximately £624,000 per academic year.



## EHCP Placements

- 48% in mainstream schools compared to 34% nationally.
- 13% in general further education or tertiary higher education colleges compared to 12% nationally.
- 30 % were placed in Special schools (including non-maintained settings) compared to 36% nationally.
- 0.3% were in AP compared to 0.8% nationally.



## BUDGET ALLOCATION

- Calderdale LA provide schools notional SEN through their individual school budgets at 12.2% of the Schools Block DSG (2.2% above national average)
- Maintained Schools in Calderdale had an end of year surplus of £9 million in 2023



## Action To Address HNB Deficit

- SEND & AP Partnership Board to include Chair of Schools Forum and wider representation
- DSG Deficit Recovery Plan initial summary
- More data driven decision making on place planning
- Increased special school places inc. more special school hubs
- SEND & AP Strategy to be refreshed Spring Term 2024
- Workstream to support identification & Inclusion is underway
- Participation in DfE Change Programme
- An operational exceptional funding group to be established



## HNB Deficit Management Plan

- A strategic tool used to analyse financial pressures, whilst ensuring appropriate initiatives and changes are made to secure positive outcomes for our CYP.
- Will support the production of a new SEND & AP Strategy and co-produced new area priorities
- Will support the Council's aspiration and outcomes for children with SEND.



# Capital Funding

HNB Deficit Plan to be used in conjunction with High Needs Provision Capital Allocations and Capital funding for increased school place planning



## Key Partners

- Children, Young People & Families
- Schools, Colleges & other Education Providers
- Schools Forum
- Health & Social Care
- Other Local Authorities





# Sustainability

- Managing Place Planning
- Managing the need for EHCP's
- Improving SEN Support in mainstream
- Use of Appropriate Provision
- Use of Capital Funding
- Use of Alternative Provision



## Next Steps

- Create a HNB Deficit Management Plan Reference Group
- Remit will be to consider sustainable funding strategies and remedial actions and report to the SEND Partnership Board and Schools Forum in respect of the DSG Deficit Management Plan
- Group will inform the strategic and operational action to create sustainability and reduce the HNB deficit



## Next Steps

- Options paper on capital funding for SEN places to be taken to Cabinet prior to consultation with stake-holders
- Focus on supporting mainstream placements with Additional Resource Provisions (ARPs) with an expression of interest open to all schools to increase provision
- Consideration of extending Special School estate to increase places in primary, secondary and Post 16.



## Next Steps

- Phase one: Establish HNB Deficit Management Plan Reference Group and review the plan (January - March)
- Phase two: Shaping options and proposals for the future system (April - June)
- Phase three: Recommendations and Implementation plans (July to September)

**Proposed: update reports to be presented to Schools Forum as a standard agenda item**

