

LANCASHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

Date of meeting 12 January 2021

Item No 6

Title: High Needs Block Monitoring 2020/21

Executive Summary

This report provides high level information on budget monitoring for the High Needs Block from the autumn term 2020/21.

Recommendations

The Forum is asked to:

- a) Note the report;**
- b) Express any views about the autumn term 2020/21 High Needs Block, Monitoring;**
- c) Be mindful of this information when making decisions/recommendations about the 2021/22 Schools Budget.**

Background

Due to the cost and demand led pressures on the High Needs Block budget, arrangements were introduced in 2018/19 to provide the Forum with termly budget monitoring.

Provisional autumn term 2020/21 data has now been reviewed to enable an updated forecast position to be estimated for 31 March 2021.

The forecast High Needs block budget position at 31 March 2021 predicts a circa £2m surplus.

This forecast is similar to the monitoring position at the end of the summer term 2020, which was reported to Forum in October 2020.

There remains some concerns around the ongoing financial pressures facing this block, as forecasting data may have been impacted due to COVID-19 implications and the demand and costs are expected to rise in the spring term 2021.

Year end monitoring will be presented to Forum in due course and will provide more detailed analysis, highlights any budget adjustments and set out reasons for significant variances.