

Report on the SEN underspend and future proposals - For Action

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Executive Summary:

In the financial years 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 the SEN placements' budget has carried forward underspends as a result of the reduction in expensive out of borough day and residential placements for children and young people. This has been achieved because the SEN Team have worked closely with our special schools to develop their provisions to meet the needs of the most complex and challenging young people; with our mainstream schools to develop resourced provisions that meet the increasing demand for specialist provision and also with social care to provide local support services for families.

There are a number of projects that would benefit from the additional one-off funding that this underspend could provide. We cannot sustain longer term projects because it is unlikely that underspends will continue at a time when the budgets are under pressure from increased demands due to both the population increase and the continuing complexity of the children and young people.

Background:

Since 2005 the SEN strategy has been to reduce expensive out of borough specialist places by increasing parental confidence in local special schools, increase the funding available to mainstream schools by delegating SEN funding and developing resourced provisions to enable some children with severe and/or complex needs to attend a mainstream school.

Financial Year	SEN Placements Underspend	Recoupment Income Surplus	Total Underspend	Less Utilised	Less Commitments	Uncommitted Balance Carry forward
	£	£	£	£	£	£
2010-2011	755,000		755,000	289,200	300,000	165,800
2011-2012	500,600	215,300	715,900		715,900	0
2012-2013	1,034,800	402,900	1,437,700			1,437,700
Total	2,290,400	618,200	2,908,600	289,200	1,015,900	1,603,500

Therefore the current SEN total underspend available is £1,603,500

Proposal:

The underspend is used to support the following projects:

Proposals Summary	
	£
1. Person centred training & support for schools for the development of Education, Health and Care plans	12,000
2. Person centred training & support for parents for the development of Education, Health and Care plans	3,000
3. Refurbishment of Hearing Impaired Special Resource Provision at Whitehall to increase year groups	23,550
4. Development of a new Special Resource Provision at Hillyfield Academy on the Aveling Park Site	45,000
5. Waltham Forest Dyslexia Association - Funding to support Waltham Forest Pupils	7,000
6. Project Search Job Coach	15,000
	105,550

1. The continuation of the person centred training and support for schools and other professionals and the development of person centred Education, Health and Care Plans that will replace statements of special educational needs in September 2014.

Cost £12,000 to second two members of staff one from a mainstream and one from a special school for 18 days across the year (approximately half a day a week).

2. Support for parents to enable them to support their young people through transition to adult life by being trained in the use of person centred planning thinking tools. The families will have young people from Year 9 – 13 (14 years – 18 years old) who are going through transition from children to adult services. The Transition Team and other relevant professionals will be trained to use person centred planning thinking tools by taking part in the workshops so that Waltham Forest staff can continue this work with families in future years.

Cost £3,000 to procure this service from a national provider working with the SEN Pathfinder Local Authorities.

3. Whitehall Primary is the resourced provision for children with hearing impairments and the school would like to acoustically treat the rooms in the nursery to meet the needs of the Foundation Stage children with hearing impairments. This work would enable the children to receive the majority of their support in the nursery rather than needing to be withdrawn to rooms in the school. It will cost £8,550

The school also have a growing number of hearing impaired children with complex needs (learning, physical and medical) and therefore would benefit from adapting a toilet and changing room into a sensory room. They have received verbal quotes of approximately £15,000

Cost £23,550 for these two building adaptations.

4. Development of a resourced provision at Hillyfields Primary on the Aveling Park site. The resourced provision has been agreed with the Reach Academy Trust to meet the growing demand for resourced provision places for children with autism. Hillyfields have agreed that the provision on the Aveling Park site will cater for children from the south Chingford and north Walthamstow areas. The school have agreed to have 3 places in each year group including the nursery and will begin by opening the provision in the Foundation Stage with 3 reception and 3 nursery places. The building work needed on the Aveling Park site will not be complete until September 2014 and therefore no children can attend on the site until that date. This proposal is for 6 places to be funded from July 2013 – March 2014 to allow the school to recruit a specialist teacher and support staff and to ensure that they are trained. The staff will

work alongside Whitefield Outreach staff and staff in other ASD resourced provisions to gain experience. From 1st April 2014 appropriate children in the Foundation Stage will be able to have Hillyfield Resourced Provision named on their statement from September 2014. The Hillyfield staff will be able to support the children in their current setting until they are able to transfer to the Aveling Park site.

Cost £45,000

5. Funding to enable Waltham Forest Dyslexia Association (WFDA) to provide weekly classes in literacy, numeracy and handwriting. These term time classes on Monday evenings (between 4pm-8pm) provide support for some of the most disadvantaged groups within our community through the removal of educational barriers. The British Dyslexia Association (2004) states that a number of projects/studies have identified a much higher incidence of dyslexia in young offenders (30 -50%) compared to 10% in general population. On a local level, Waltham Forest Council in an Equality Analysis report (2012) stated that 'a large % of individuals involved in gang activity have been found to suffer from dyslexia'. Without specialist appropriate teaching help, students with dyslexia can lose their self-confidence and their feeling of failure can blight their whole lives, not just in the classroom. WFDA is committed to helping them develop greater independence and a better quality of life. WFDA is asking for £3,500 to support these classes.

WFDA also provides child and adult screening services based centrally in Waltham Forest. Child screenings are at Walthamstow School for Girls and adult screenings (16 plus) are at Heathcote School. Some local schools now regularly refer children to be screened and for continuing tutoring and support. They also now offer a service to local schools to provide a block booking of screenings. The comprehensive screening service is run by professional, qualified dyslexia specialists. As well as using the computer screening programme, they talk to the child and to the parents, and they also look at a sample of the child's written work and they try coloured overlays, to see if these assist the child. So it is much more than just an online screening test. If the screening carried out indicates that the child is dyslexic, the child has the opportunity to attend the additional classes outside of school, although they currently have to join our growing waiting list. WFDA is asking for £3,500 to support the dyslexia screening.

Cost £7,000 for both projects.

6. Whitefield School have registered with an international internship programme for young people with learning difficulties called Project Search. The programme involves an education setting and a large community employer, between 6 – 12 young people in their last year of school are placed on the site of the employer with teaching and support on the site provided by the school. The young people have an opportunity to have an internship in up to 4 different departments receiving step-by-step job coaching before and during, each internship. The employer only guarantees that if a job becomes available the young person will be able to apply and offered an interview. Whitefield School is leading this project working closely with William Morris and the local employer is Barts University Hospital Trust. The schools are supplying the teacher and support however in the initial year it is recommended that a Job Coach is also commissioned to ensure that all the young people are successful in securing paid employment. This cost will be met in part by adult services and I would like to propose that Schools' Forum agree to part fund.

Cost £15,000

Conclusions:

There is a large SEN underspend because of the success of the SEN strategy to reduce expensive out of borough places this should be invested in projects that will benefit children with special educational needs in Waltham Forest schools. It is important that any projects are either one-off or are able to be sustained from mainstream budgets as the underspend will not be repeated.

	£
Uncommitted Underspend	1,603,500
Less : Proposals	105,550
Available SEN Underspend	1,497,950

A proportion of the underspend should be held in reserve as a contingency against the Post 16 / Post 19 high needs costs.

A further proposal may be brought in the autumn term to consider creating resourced provisions in our colleges in order to prevent young people looking for more expensive places outside of Waltham Forest and to meet the growing need for places for young people with complex learning needs up to 25 years.

Recommendations:

Schools' Forum agree to release funding from the SEN underspend for the following projects:

1. Secondment of school staff for person centred planning / training £12,000
2. Support for families through transition £3,000
3. Refurbishment at Whitehall resourced provision to increase capacity in specific year groups £23,550
4. Development of an ASD resourced provision at Hillyfield on the Aveling Park site £45,000
5. Support for WF Dyslexia Association to enable them to deliver 7,000
6. Project Search Job Coach, £15,000

Total cost £105,550