

Learning and Skills Portfolio - Summary

Performance Summary

- The Portfolio has a number of performance highlights to report this quarter:
 - Ofsted inspections of schools continue to provide positive outcomes leading to over 93% of West Sussex children attending Good or Outstanding schools. Work is being done using the new schools MIS system to better collate and analyse school attendance and to establish a multi-disciplinary attendance team to support schools in tackling persistent absence.
 - The draft Education and Learning Strategy 2022-25 has now been shared among partners along with a planned programme of engagement in co-creating detailed workstreams and action plans to drive forward key initiatives. Our focus on tackling disadvantage and supporting the achievement of our most vulnerable children including those with SEND, in care or subject to exploitation or involved in crime is a key priority. This involves improving provision with our schools, targeting additional support, and ensuring sufficient specialist support for those children with SEND either in our mainstream schools or those specialist settings meeting the needs of our more complex students
 - We are actively preparing for an imminent Ofsted inspection of our Adult Community Learning and also for a Local Area SEND 7 Alternative Provision inspection later in the year.

Our Council Performance Measures

- The following section provides updates of the performance KPIs agreed in Our Council Plan and the action taking place, comprising a wider performance view, with KPI measures comparing performance over the last three periods - this may be quarterly, annually or other time periods (depending on how regularly data is released); however, each measure will explain the reporting period.

Learning and Skills		2022/23 Target	Performance Over The Last 3 Periods			DoT
21	Measure: The percentage of young people attaining Grade 4 and above for Maths and English GSCE by age of 16 years old Reporting Frequency: Annually (October)	67.5%	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	↓
	G		G	G		
			72.2%	75.2%	69.6%	
Performance Analysis: Mar-23: Due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, most exams and assessments did not take place in the 2019/20, or 2020/21 academic years. The government also announced that it would not publish school or college level results data on Compare school and college performance (also commonly referred to as school and college performance tables) in autumn 2020 or autumn 2021, and that this data would not be used to hold schools and colleges to account. The DfE have also made clear that results data from 2020/21 will not be used in school and college level performance measures in future years. The 2022 data shows that West Sussex has a much higher percentage of 4+ in English and Maths compared to England (64.4%) but a little lower than the South East (70.9%) and our statistical neighbours (70.31%). Latest National Rank						

Learning and Skills		2022/23 Target	Performance Over The Last 3 Periods			DoT
= 60 and West Sussex is in Quartile B						
Actions: The local authority provides a programme of professional development for teachers and school leaders including work on curriculum, assessment and raising expectations. The annual conversation held with all schools identifies where schools may have underperformance and targeted visits and consultancy support is provided to those schools where performance and achievement is requiring improvement.						
25	Measure: Percentage of schools with OFSTED rating 'good' or 'outstanding' Reporting Frequency: Quarterly	90.0%	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23	→
			A	G	G	
			88.4%	91.4%	91.4%	
Performance Analysis: Mar-23: The total for West Sussex schools that are judged good or outstanding, excluding those to be inspected as an academy in the current framework, is at 91.4% For March 2023, the percentage for each school phase is: Primary Schools = 88.0%; Secondary Schools = 94.4%; Special Schools = 100%.						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 schools retained their rating of Good 1 school which had been rated Good has now been rated as Requires Improvement 						
For all inspected schools, as of February 2023:						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Sussex percentage of Good/Outstanding in all schools, 91.61% is ranked 50 in the country and is in Quartile B. The positive gap to England is 3.15%. West Sussex percentage of Good/Outstanding in Primary schools, 90.31% is ranked 89 in the country and is in Quartile C. The positive gap to England is 0.46%. West Sussex percentage of Good/Outstanding in Secondary schools, 97.44% is ranked 15 in the country and is in Quartile A. The positive gap to England is 16.98%. 						
Actions: The local authority provides a programme of professional development for teachers and school leaders including work on curriculum, assessment and raising expectations. The annual conversation held with all schools identifies where schools may have underperformance and targeted visits and consultancy support is provided to those schools where performance and achievement is requiring improvement.						
26	Measure: Percentage of pupils and students accessing Ofsted 'good' or 'outstanding' schools Reporting Frequency: Quarterly	89.0%	Sep-22	Dec-22	Dec-22	↗
			G	G	G	
			90.2%	93.6%	94.2%	
Performance Analysis: Mar-23: The total for West Sussex pupils in schools that are judged good or outstanding, excluding those to be inspected as an academy in the current framework, has increased slightly to 94.2%.						
For March 2023, the percentage for each school phase is as follows: Primary Schools = 90.6%; Secondary Schools = 98.6%; Special Schools = 100%.						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 schools retained their rating of Good 1 school which had been rated Good has now been rated as Requires Improvement 						
For all inspected schools, as of February 2023:						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Sussex percentage of Pupils in All Good/Outstanding schools, 93.85% is ranked 34 in the country and is in Quartile A. The positive gap to England is 6.69%. West Sussex percentage of Pupils in Primary Good/Outstanding schools, 90.51% is ranked 89 in the country and is in Quartile C. The negative gap to England is -0.14%. West Sussex percentage of Pupils in Secondary Good/Outstanding schools, 97.93% is ranked 14 in the country and is in Quartile A. The positive gap to England is 15.5%. 						
Actions: The local authority provides a programme of professional development for teachers and school leaders including work on curriculum, assessment and raising expectations. The annual conversation held with all schools identifies where schools may have underperformance and targeted visits and consultancy support is provided to those schools where performance and achievement is requiring improvement.						

Learning and Skills		2022/23 Target	Performance Over The Last 3 Periods			DoT
27	Measure: Percentage achieving expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined at the end of Key Stage 2 Reporting Frequency: Annually (October)	68.0%	2018/19	2019/20	2022/23	↓
			G	A	R	
			61.8%	62.7%	55.0%	
Performance Analysis: Mar-23: For Key Stage 2 in 2022 SATS results have been released nationally and the picture is lower than in 2019, mainly due to the Covid-19 pandemic having an adverse effect on students, especially in Writing. West Sussex is lower than national and south east in most subjects, especially writing (and, therefore, Reading, Writing and Maths (RWM) Combined). West Sussex is in line with national outcomes for reading but 4% below national for writing. All areas have got a lower percentage, England and the South East was 59%, in RWM at expected standards compared to before the pandemic and this is particularly the case across the board in writing results. We have a marked trend of underachievement in writing. It is entirely teacher assessed. West Sussex manage the moderation of the writing. This will need to be evaluated as a process. It affects all groups of pupils, and it must be a priority to understand the reasons lying behind this underachievement and to address the root causes.						
Actions: The local authority provides a programme of professional development for teachers and school leaders including work on curriculum, assessment and raising expectations. The annual conversation held with all schools identifies where schools may have underperformance and targeted visits and consultancy support is provided to those schools where performance and achievement is requiring improvement. Additional school led improvement projects are used to support schools in difficulty, where teaching and leadership requires additional support to improve, and where outcomes for pupils are too low.						
28	Measure: Average attainment 8 score of students at Key Stage 4 including English and Maths Reporting Frequency: Annually (October)	48.3	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	↓
			G	G	G	
			50.3	51.6	49.1	
Performance Analysis: Mar-23: Due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, most exams and assessments did not take place in the 2019/20, or 2020/21 academic years. The government also announced that it would not publish school or college level results data on Compare school and college performance (also commonly referred to as school and college performance tables) in autumn 2020 or autumn 2021, and that this data would not be used to hold schools and colleges to account. The DfE have also made clear that results data from 2020/21 will not be used in school and college level performance measures in future years. Data for 2022 shows that West Sussex has a higher attainment 8 score compared to England (47.2) and our statistical neighbours (49.06) but a little lower than the South East (50.1). Latest National Rank = 57 and West Sussex is in Quartile B.						
Actions: To improve performance, all secondary schools in the county have taken specific actions to address any areas of concern such as develop action plans, share practice with other schools, become examiners. The council brokers individual support for maintained and some academy schools that are vulnerable in some way through Area Inclusion Improvement Board (AIIB).						
29	Measure: Percentage attainment gap of disadvantaged pupils compared with non-disadvantaged peers at the end of Key Stage 2 Reporting Frequency: Annually (October)	20.0%	2018/19	2019/20	2022/23	↓
			G	A	R	
			23.4% (Target in 2018/19: 24%)	25.3% (Target in 2019/20: 24%)	24.0%	
Performance Analysis: Mar-23: For Key Stage 2 in 2022 SATS results have been released nationally and the picture is lower than in 2019, mainly due to the Covid-19 pandemic having an adverse effect on students, especially in Writing. However, results show that the disadvantaged gap is only 1% worse than national (23%) but is 3% narrower than the South East (26%). We have a marked trend of underachievement in writing. It is entirely teacher assessed. West Sussex manage the moderation of the writing. This will need to be evaluated as a process. It affects all groups of pupils, and it must be a priority to understand the reasons lying behind this underachievement and to address the root causes.						
Actions: Closing the gap that exists between disadvantaged students and their non disadvantaged peers remains a key priority nationally and for the local authority. As part of the Covid-19 recovery plan, the government have provided a national tutoring programme to provide additional support for children who may have fallen behind along with access to computers for those disadvantaged pupils who had more restricted access to technology at home. The local authority is not engaged in this directly as the relationship has been established directly between central government and schools. West Sussex County Council has provided a broad programme of professional development and support to schools which has included training courses, networks and a school to school led programme of training and support, targeted at those schools with a high differential between outcomes for disadvantaged and their non disadvantaged peers. This has involved an external partner.						

Learning and Skills		2022/23 Target	Performance Over The Last 3 Periods			DoT
30	<p>Measure: Combined percentage of 16-17-year-olds that are Not in Education, Education and Training or whose activity is not known (3-month average Dec-Feb annually)</p> <p>Reporting Frequency: Monthly for December -February only.</p>	6.5%	Feb-22	Nov-22	Mar-23	↗
			G	R	G	
			6.0%	11.8%	6.0%	
<p>Performance Analysis: Mar 23: West Sussex have exceeded their target. Under the Education and Skills Act 2008 (ESA 2008) local authorities have a duty to track 16- and 17-years old's Education, Employment or Training (EET) status. The 3-month LA assessed figures are only publicly comparable with other regions and Local Authorities in the 3-month assessed period of December-February in each cycle, as each LA has gone through the process at different stages for September through to November and through the tracking process during the winter. The DfE does not monitor 'not knowns' between June/July and September and, therefore, Local Authorities are advised not to benchmark their performance against others during this period.</p> <p>Actions: Our team of careers advisors continue to offer support in a far more targeted way to help young people struggling to fulfil their career potential. Many are gradually re-engaging with education and training, many building up their confidence and skills by starting on short term employability courses before moving on to more full-time education, training or employment opportunities. There remains a number of young people with complex issues for whom we are working with our partners to ensure the right support is made available for them so that they can also progress.</p>						

Finance Summary

Portfolio In Year Pressures and Mitigations (Local Authority)

Pressures	(£m)	Mitigations and Underspending	(£m)	Year End Budget Variation (£m)
Covid-19 Pandemic Expenditure - College placements and delayed Educational Psychologist assessments.	£0.290m	Use of non-ringfenced Covid-19 grant.	(£0.290m)	
Mainstream Home to School Transport costs due to a number of factors including increased growth and inflationary pressures.	£1.445m	Net staffing underspending - vacancies within Educational Psychology Service, School Crossing Patrol and SEND and Inclusion Service.	(£0.288m)	
SEND Home to School Transport costs including increasing Alternative Provision transport costs and internal escort provision.	£1.305m	Other minor variations.	(£0.160m)	
Post-16 Home to School Transport.	£0.053m			
Adult Education Contract overspend following Aspire West Sussex entering administration.	£0.442m			
Undelivered saving relating to traded services, following the DfE announcement that LA's will no longer be able to provide the role of Appropriate Body for Early Career Teachers and shortfall in Leadership and Governance income.	£0.150m			
Crawley Schools PFI – Inflation pressure.	£0.516m			
Learning and Skills Portfolio - Total	£4.201m		(£0.738m)	£3.463m

Dedicated Schools Grant - Portfolio In Year Pressures and Mitigations

Pressures	(£m)	Mitigations and Underspending	(£m)	Year End Budget Variation (£m)
High Needs Block: Initial estimated budget deficit identified during 2022/23 budget setting	£6.000m	Early Years Block: Underspend on Early Year Providers and Centrally Retained services.	(£1.603m)	
High Needs Block: Independent and Non-maintained Sector Placements	£4.363m	School Block: Underspend on Growth Fund,	(£0.169m)	
High Needs Block: Cost of temporary accommodation	£1.074m	School Block: Underspend within Schools in Financial Difficulties and other General Duties services.	(£0.274m)	
High Needs Block: Post-16 Further Education Colleges	£0.794m	High Needs Block: Underspend on Alternative Provision and Support for Schools.	(£0.897m)	
High Needs Block: Post-16 Independent Specialist Providers	£1.381m	High Needs Block: Underspend on Schools Block Transfer.	(£0.794m)	
High Needs Block: Exceptional Needs Funding and Top-Ups	£1.262m	Central Block: Support for Schools underspending.	(£0.260m)	
High Needs Block: Specialist Support	£5.996m			
Dedicated Schools Grant - Total	£20.870m		(£3.997m)	£16.873m

Significant Financial Issues and Risks Arising (Local Authority)

Narrative	Cost Driver	Baseline (March 2022)	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Action	Trajectory
Destination mix of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) receiving transport Approximately one third of our children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) also receive transportation to their school.	No. of pupils with EHCP transported to a mainstream school / SSC	212 (10.1%)	211 (9.9%)	191 (9.0%)	209 (9.4%)	211 (9.3%)	↔	The number of complex cases continues to increase and current special school places have now reached full capacity leading to increased places in independent sector. Increasing the number of children being educated in the independent sector and away from their communities also increases the cost+P27s of transport.
	No. of pupils with EHCP transported to a special school	1,316 (62.8%)	1,328 (62.3%)	1,346 (63.3%)	1,391 (62.7%)	1,409 (62.1%)	↘	
	No. of pupils with EHCP transported to independent placements	549 (26.2%)	568 (26.7%)	571 (26.8%)	594 (26.8%)	623 (27.5%)	↗	
	No. of pupils with EHCP transported to other placements	18 (0.9%)	23 (1.1%)	17 (0.8%)	25 (1.1%)	25 (1.1%)	↔	
	Total no. of pupils with EHCP transported	2,095 (100%)	2,130 (100%)	2,125 (100%)	2,219 (100%)	2,268 (100%)	↗	
Transport type mix of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) receiving transport Approximately one quarter of our children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) who receive transport are transported on the County Council fleet. However, the majority are transported in an external taxi or minibus. This is an expensive option, and as a result, a parental mileage rate has been introduced to encourage parents to	No. of pupils with EHCP transported in an external taxi/minibus	1,421 (67.8%)	1,429 (67.1%)	1,346 (63.3%)	1,411 (63.6%)	1,436 (63.3%)	↔	The decision to have an internal fleet is a long-term strategic one. It means that in areas with fewer suppliers or where prices are unsustainably high the Council can moderate the impact on our spending and overall costs. Whilst there are over 100 minibus routes, the insourcing last year
	No. of pupils with EHCP transported on County Council fleet	563 (26.9%)	584 (27.4%)	643 (30.3%)	654 (29.7%)	675 (29.8%)	↔	
	No. of pupils with EHCP transported by parents	111 (5.3%)	117 (5.5%)	136 (6.4%)	154 (6.7%)	157 (6.9%)	↔	

Narrative	Cost Driver	Baseline (March 2022)	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Action	Trajectory
transport their own child to and from school instead.	Total no. of pupils with EHCP transported	2,095 (100%)	2,130 (100%)	2,125 (100%)	2,219 (100%)	2,268 (100%)	↔	focused on expensive accessible vehicle routes and/or where the biggest cost reductions could be made.
Total number of routes required to transport pupils with an Education, health and care Plan (EHCP). The number of externally contracted routes being undertaken has been on the increase over the last few of years.	No. of transport routes	698	717	688	725	756	↗	↗
Percentage of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) receiving transport requiring a solo taxi. The biggest area of increased spend over the last few years has been solo taxis. Pupils receive solo taxi transport from home to school because of age, SEND or other circumstances e.g., behaviour. Analysis shows around 35% of the pupils travelling alone in a solo taxi is due to needs, whilst the remaining 65% are due to geography/only child at the school.	No. of single occupancy taxi routes	305	322	298	323	343	↗	During the first six months of the year the number of solo taxis fell by 7 due to the internal fleet expansion programme. However, since the beginning of the new academic year these numbers have increased by 45.

Key:

Arrow:	Decreasing	↘	Increasing	↗	Static	↔
Colour:	Improving	■	Worsening	■	Static	■

Significant Financial Issues and Risks Arising- *Dedicated Schools Grant*

Narrative	Cost Driver	Baseline (March 2022)	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Action	Trajectory
Placement mix of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) Our High Needs expenditure within West Sussex is largely driven by the number of pupils with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP). The 22/23 budget has been set on the basis of a further 450 pupils this year. Overall growth so far this year is significantly above this, although the proportion of these children being placed in more costly placements within the independent sector has remained the same.	No of pupils with EHCP in mainstream school	1,988 (30.5%)	2,073 (31.0%)	1,963 (28.9%)	1,995 (29.2%)	2,129 (30.3%)	↗	West Sussex has significantly less learners with EHCPs in their mainstream secondary schools than the national picture. A small specialist outreach team has been created as a two-year pilot to support the inclusion of these learners in their local mainstream school. Schools Forum has also approved a £1.2m transfer from the DSG Schools block this year in order to pay for more temporary posts to increase capacity to support mainstream schools, support
	No of pupils with EHCP in special school / SSC	2,273 (34.9%)	2,294 (34.3%)	2,286 (33.7%)	2,292 (33.6%)	2,301 (32.7%)	↘	
	No of pupils with EHCP in independent placements	715 (11.0%)	737 (11.0%)	729 (10.7%)	768 (11.2%)	818 (11.6%)	↗	
	No of pupils with EHCP in post school placements	1,215 (18.7%)	1,192 (17.8%)	1,415 (20.8%)	1,348 (19.7%)	1,327 (18.9%)	↘	

Narrative	Cost Driver	Baseline (March 2022)	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Action	Trajectory
	No of pupils with EHCP in other placement type	319 (4.9%)	398 (5.9%)	394 (5.8%)	434 (6.3%)	454 (6.5%)	↗	effective transition in early years and support annual reviews in post-16. The increasing level of placements in the independent sector is largely due to lack of capacity in WSCC's settings. In the medium term, it is expected that the number of independent sector placements will continue to rise at a faster rate.
	Total no of pupils with EHCP	6,510 (100%)	6,694 (100%)	6,787 (100%)	6,837 (100%)	7,029 (100%)	↔	

Key:

Arrow:	Decreasing ↘	Increasing ↗	Static ↔
Colour:	Improving 	Worsening 	Static

Financial Narrative on the Local Authority Portfolio's Position

- The 2022/23 financial outturn position for the Learning and Skills Portfolio is an overspend of £3.463m. This is an increase of £2.622m when compared to the £0.841m overspend forecast in December. The main movements during this quarter relate to an increase of £2.073m for Home to School Transport costs and £0.442m of overspend relating to Aspire West Sussex entering administration.
- The **Home to School Transport** service has overspent by £2.803m in 2022/23 due to a combination of growth in pupil numbers and increasing contract prices. The rise in pupil numbers is mostly due to the increasing number of pupils now in receipt of an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). The total Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) pupil passenger numbers in 2022/23 have increased by 173 from 2,095 to 2,268.
- There are several underlying causes for the increasing price of contracts which have continued to add pressure during the year. General inflation (fuel, tyres etc) accounts for a proportion, but a much greater impact has been felt by the acute driver shortage across the taxi sector. With natural changes to routes associated with school transport and operators surrendering contracts, many routes have been put out to the market but were not receiving interest from taxi operators to accept the business. Of the transport routes which have had bids, the value of the bids have been at a significantly higher rate than previously paid.
- The **Mainstream Transport** provision overspent by £1.445m. This was made up of a combination of factors including increased growth in the number of routes provided, higher demand for season tickets and price increases over and above the inflation rate allocated in the budget. The higher inflation rates were largely made of payments to contractors for increased pay costs. An inflationary pressure of £0.630m was forecast on the coach contracts back in the summer. Since that time costs have increased by a further £0.151m due to

the full academic year effect of changes made in the summer term and additional routes being re-tendered later in the year.

7. The **SEND Transport** provision has overspent by £1.305m this year. Soaring fuel costs have meant that a number of taxi companies have handed back some school routes this year and retendering exercises have resulted in cost increases in the region of 20%.
8. Since September 2022, more transport routes have been taken over by the County Council's internally managed fleet within the Highways and Transport Service. The lack of taxi drivers and therefore 'zero bidders' for some tendered taxi routes has driven this requirement over the last 18 months as well as the impact of the largest operator of wheelchair accessible services giving notice on 18 routes. The internal fleet now runs 99 routes, up from 81 in April 2022.
9. When forecasting the projected spend on external taxis and minibuses for SEND pupils in December, it could be seen that the average daily cost of providing this service had stayed fairly static since the beginning of the year at £62,000 a day. Since December, total SEND passenger numbers have increased by a further 60. Furthermore, since the beginning of the new academic year, the number of high cost' single occupancy taxi routes being provided to SEND pupils has increased. This has meant that the average daily cost of providing external taxis and minibuses has increased from the projected £64,000 a day to an average cost of £80,000 over the last four months of the year. This increase of £16,000 per day when multiplied by the 71 school days over this period of time equates to an increase in spend of £1.136m.
10. The **Adult Education Contract** has overspent by £0.442m following Aspire West Sussex recently entering into administration. Since the County Council is an unsecured creditor, it has been assumed that the £0.170m grant advance given to Aspire by the County Council last year will not be recouped. A further £0.217m of cost will also be incurred following the Department for Education's clawback of grant funding following the performance of the contract in 2021/22. In addition, Aspire had also been renting its central office (Marle Place) from the County Council, therefore a loss of £0.055m rental income has also been incurred.
11. As previously reported, there has been reduction of **Traded Income (Undelivered Savings)** following the Department for Education's announcement that Local Authorities will no longer be able to provide the role of Appropriate Body for Early Career Teachers from September 2023. In view of this, the decision was taken not to offer the Appropriate Body role for new two-year registrations from September 2022 (unless the Early Career Teacher will complete before September 2023). The 2023/24 budget includes £0.1m to cover this income loss going forward.
12. The **Crawley Schools PFI** budget reported an overspending of £0.516m at year-end due to inflationary pressures, which includes £0.200m on the annual unitary charge payment and £0.300m in relation to utility costs. These pressures have been addressed as part of the 2023/24 budget setting process.
13. There has been a net underspending of £0.288m due to **staffing vacancies** within the Educational Psychology Service, School Crossing Patrol Service and SEND and Inclusion Service teams.

Financial Narrative on the Dedicated Schools Grant Position

14. The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation after academy recoupments and deductions in 2022/23 totalled £486.702m and was made up of four separate funding blocks: Schools Block (£317.229m), High Needs Block (£108.394m), Central School Services Block (£6.758m) and Early Years Block (£54.321m).
15. The balance on the Dedicated Schools Grant reserves at the beginning of the 2022/23 financial year stood at a deficit of £25.504m. After allowing a retrospective adjustment to the Early Years 2021/22 DSG allocation of £0.522m, the February 2023 balance in reserves stood at a deficit of £24.982m.

Dedicated Schools Grant Unusable Reserve	General DSG Reserve £m
2022/23 Opening Balance	-25.504
Retrospective 21/22 Early Years Adjustment	0.522
February 2023 Balance	-24.982

16. The final position on the DSG in 2022/23 was an overspend of £16.873m, a decrease in spending of £0.729m when compared to the December position.
17. The main variations across the four DSG funding blocks were as follows:

Dedicated Schools Grant - Outturn Detail	Variation £m
Early Years Block	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Years Providers – Underspending on 3-& 4-year-old placements offset by overspendings on Inclusion and 2-year-old placements 	-1.372
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centrally Retained – Staffing underspends in Early Years teams 	-0.231
Early Years Block Total	-1.603
High Needs Block	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent and Non-maintained Schools – The volume of placements has significantly increased again this year. 	+4.363
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post-16 SEND College Placements – Number of placements incurring a cost has increased by 8 to 238 this year, with the average annual cost of placement remaining at £18k. 	+0.794

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-16 Specialist Independent Providers – The number of placements has decreased by 6 to 66 this year, with the average annual cost of placement increasing by £7k to £77k. 	+1.381
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceptional Needs and Top Up Funding – Increased number of ENF allocations and mainstream top-ups. 	+1.262
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist Support – Significantly higher level of spend due to increasing challenges in finding specialist placements. 	+5.996
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative Provision - Increased cost recovery from both Maintained and Academy Schools. 	-0.404
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for Schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Temporary classrooms at St Anthony’s, Manor Green College and Cornfield special schools ➢ Schools in Financial Difficulty ➢ School Improvement Boards ➢ Teacher recruitment and retention, staff training and protected salaries ➢ Staffing underspends within SEND and Inclusion Service ➢ Staffing underspends within Virtual School 	+1.074 -0.091 -0.033 -0.049 -0.031 -0.290
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools Block Transfer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Staffing underspends within £1.2m budget due to delays with recruitment 	-0.794
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drawdown from DSG Reserves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Drawdown approved by Schools Forum during budget setting process 	+6.000
High Needs Block Total	+19.179
Schools Block	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for Schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Growth Fund – Unspent funds within £2.3m allocation ➢ Rates – Actual rates bills higher than estimates ➢ Schools in Financial Difficulty – Total commitments in current financial year of only £0.105m 	-0.169 +0.007 -0.091
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other De-delegated Services - Underspending within Free School Meals Eligibility Checking Service (£23k) offset by overspending within Ethnic Minority and Traveller Service (£35k) 	+0.012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Duties – Underspending on redundancies budget due to very few school restructures during the year (£238k) partly offset by overspending on schools’ property budget (£36k). 	-0.202
Schools Block Total	-0.443

Central Block	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for Schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Admissions legal costs -0.054 ➢ Finance support -0.044 ➢ Staffing overspendings within Capital Planning, Admissions and Safeguarding teams +0.030 ➢ Pupil Entitlement Investigations underspending predominately due to Fixed Penalty Notice income -0.192 	
Central Block Total	-0.260
Total	+16.873

18. As a result of the £16.873m overspending, there is now a deficit of £41.855m in DSG unusable reserve at the end of 2022/23.

Dedicated Schools Grant Unusable Reserve	Schools DSG Reserve £m	General DSG Reserve £m	Total DSG Reserves £m
February 2023 Balance	0.000	-24.982	-24.982
Schools Block Underspending	0.169	0.274	0.443
Central Block Underspending	n/a	0.260	0.260
Early Years Block Underspending	n/a	1.603	1.603
High Needs Block Overspending	0.794	-19.973	-19.179
2022/23 Year End Balance	0.963	-42.818	-41.855

19. The Growth Fund underspend of £0.169m within the Schools Block has been held in a separate DSG reserve account at the end of the financial year in order to help pay for:

- the phased removal of temporary accommodation as part of the Worthing school's reorganisation (if there is a change in DSG funding legislation), or
- the future start up and opening costs of the proposed new school in Burgess Hill (if the legislation does not change).

20. The underspending of £0.794m on the £1.2m transferred from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block this year has also been held in this separate DSG reserve account at the end of the year. These funds will be drawn down in 2023/24 to meet the continued staffing costs which will be incurred next financial year.

In-year Revenue Grant Update

21. Since the creation of the 2022/23 Budget, a number of new grants have been awarded. Details of new grants are added to quarterly Performance and Resources Reports throughout the year.

22. These additional funds have/will be utilised in accordance with the grant determination.

New In-Year Grant - Name and Details	(£)
Extension of the Role of Virtual School Heads to Certain Previously Looked after Children Implementation Grant	£80,000
Early Years Training Grant -Professional Development Programme	£43,000
Early Years Expert and Mentor Programme Grant	£8,000
Early Careers Framework Mentor Training	£137,000
SEND Grant	£45,000
IT Connectivity	£255,000
National Tutoring Programme	£1,114,000
Recovery Premium- Additional in-year allocation	£2,173,000
Vaccination and Mass Testing Grants	£208,000
Covid-19 Workforce Fund	£61,000
NQT Education Recovery	£146,000
Teachers Pay Grant	£97,000
Teachers' Pension Grant	£517,000
Senior Mental Health Support in Schools	£66,000
Post-16 Support – Social Fund	£262,000
Alternative Provision Y11 Transition Fund	£32,000

Proposed Carry Forward Requests

23. A number of carry forward requests have been processed during the closure of the accounts, including the following item within the Learning and Skills Portfolio:

2022/23 Carry Forward Requests	Amount
Mental Health Support Team In Schools - Underspending of NHS funding in 2022/23. Funds are earmarked to be used on initiatives in 2023/24.	£125,000
Extension of the Role of Virtual School Heads to children with a social worker Implementation Grant - This work runs across the academic year to end August 2023.	£88,600
Extension of the Role of Virtual School Heads to Certain Previously Looked after Children Implementation Grant - This work runs across the academic year to end August 2023.	£80,500

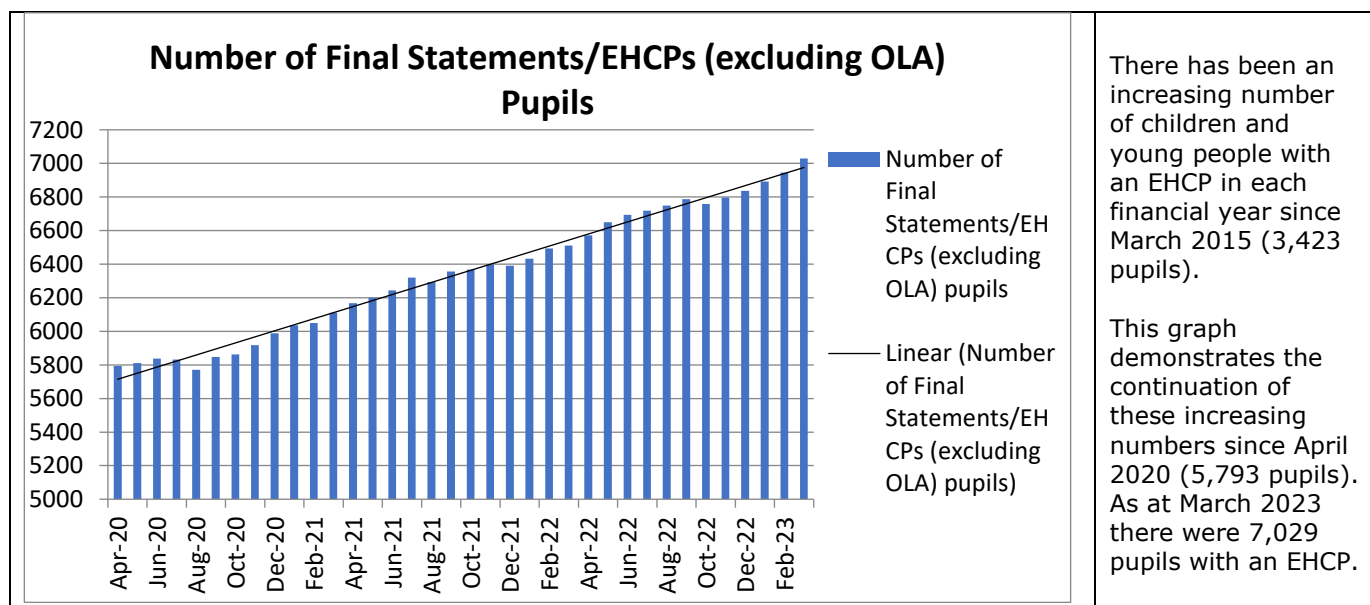
<p>Early Years Training Grant -Professional Development Programme - The objective of this grant is to equip early years practitioners and teachers to provide high quality support and teaching on early language, early maths and Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED) to the children whose learning has been most impacted by Covid-19 including staff.</p>	<p>£23,000</p>
<p>Early Years Expert and Mentor Programme Grant – The grant has been awarded to help build on strengthening teaching in early years and address the impact of the pandemic on the youngest children is to support early years practitioners through the early year’s experts and mentor’s programme.</p>	<p>£8,000</p>

24. It should be noted that all carry forward balances have specific plans in place and can demonstrate the need of funding over and above set budgets. Any carry forward balance which remains unspent at the end of 2023/24, unless specifically agreed otherwise, will be withdrawn from the carry forward reserve and made available to assist the overall financial position.

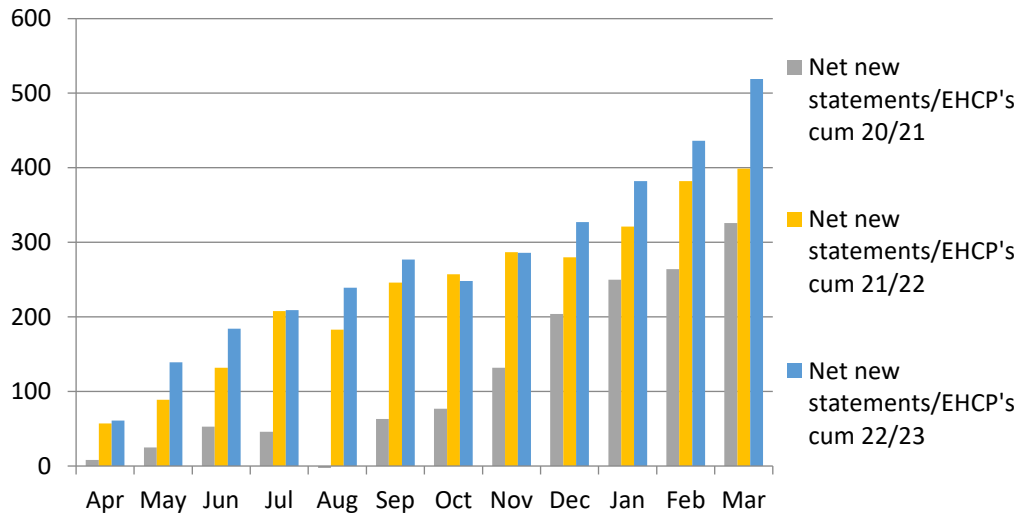
Covid-19 Expenditure Update

25. Within the Learning and Skills Portfolio, costs relating to the backlog of specific psychology assessments have been received, along with the final summer term invoices for a number of specific college placements impacted by the pandemic. This has led to £0.290m of expenditure being funded by the non-ringfenced Covid-19 grant.

Cost Drivers Information

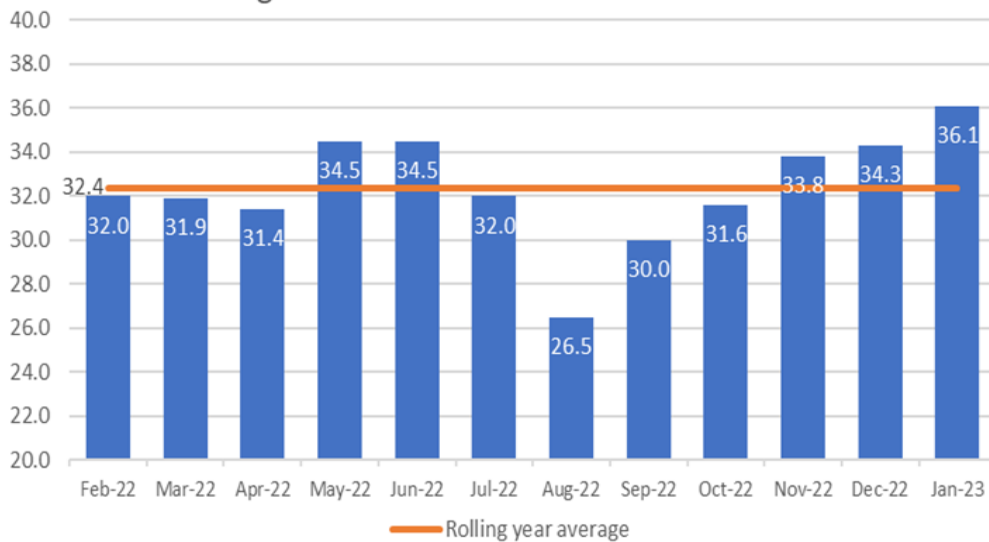


Net Total of New EHCPs



The net growth in the number of pupils with an EHCP has continued to grow at a faster rate since the Covid pandemic in 2020, and the 519 increase over the last year is on a par with the level of annual growth in 2019/20 (518).

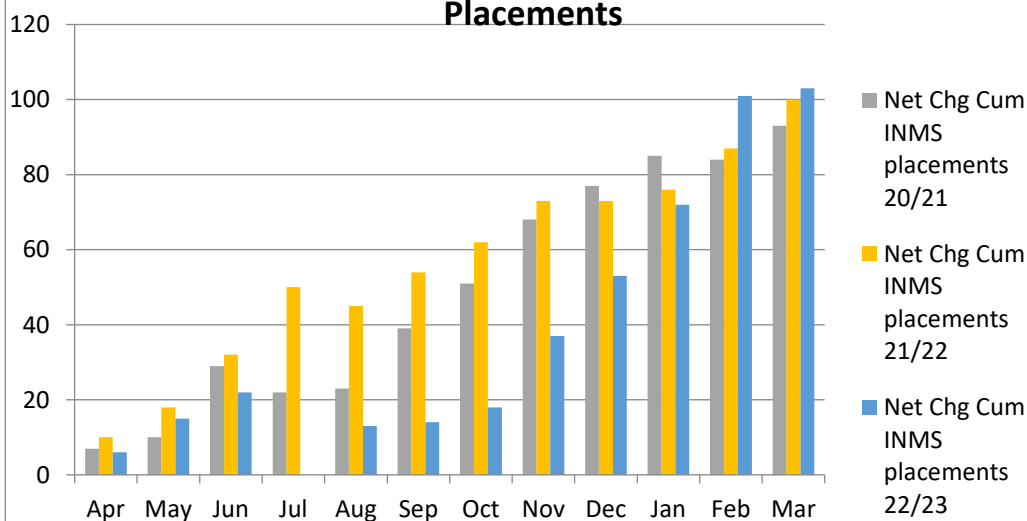
Average number of weeks to issue Final EHCPs



During January, only four EHCPs have been issued within the 20-week statutory deadline.

As at the end of January 2023, the average number of weeks to issue final EHCPs has increased to 36.1 weeks.

Net Change in Independent and Non-Maintained Placements



Although total EHCP numbers have gone up by 8% so far this year, the number of pupils in Independent and Non-maintained Sector (INMS) settings has risen by 14.4%

These placements are the most expensive (at an average cost of £50k per annum) and have increased by 296 from 522 to 818 over the last three years.

Savings Delivery Update

26. In addition to the £0.225m of 2022/23 planned savings, there remains £0.675m of savings from the 2021/22 financial year which had not been delivered on an on-going basis. To ensure that these savings are monitored and delivered, all of these savings are detailed in the table below:

Saving Activity	Savings to be Delivered in 2022/23 £000	March 2022		Narrative	2023/24 Outlook
Improve School Trading Offer	175	25	B	Saving delivered.	B
		150	R	Any improved trading income has been offset by a shortfall of income within Leadership and Governance and reduced traded income following DfE announcement that LAs will no longer be able to provide the role of Appropriate Body for Early Career Teachers.	A
Home to School Transport – Increased Internal Fleet	340	340	B	Saving delivered.	B
Home to School Transport – Greater Taxi Competition	160	160	B	Saving delivered.	B
Increase in Council's Top Slice of Early Years DSG to Compensate for Lost Central DSG Grant Funding Used for Wider Benefit of Children and Young People	225	225	B	Saving delivered.	B

Savings Key:

R Significant Risk	A At Risk	G Delivered/ Mitigated In Year	B Delivered On An Ongoing Basis
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Capital Programme

Performance Summary - Capital

27. There are 44 schemes within the portfolio. 15 of these schemes in delivery are rated green, indicating that the project is reporting to plan and a further 15 schemes are rated at amber, indicating that there is an issue, but that it can be dealt with by the project delivery team. Five schemes are rated red, indicating that there are significant issues requiring corrective action, two schemes have completed (blue) and seven schemes are within their final retention phase. An update on the progress of the schemes are detailed in the table below:

Scheme	RAG Status at Mar 2023	Reason	Latest RAG Status	Updated Position
The Angmering School - Installation of new lift to new three-storey block	GREEN	Work progressing well. Steelwork and inner brickwork installed.	GREEN	No issues from school, all being managed well onsite.

Scheme	RAG Status at Mar 2023	Reason	Latest RAG Status	Updated Position
Bedelands Academy Zero-Carbon New 6FE Secondary	AMBER	Project progressing with completion still estimated in May/June 2025. Risk of overspend prior to Stage 3 cost report being issued.	AMBER	A series of mitigation measures will be undertaken during Stage 4.
Bedelands – Primary School Developer Built 2FE	AMBER	Undertaking a full Technical Adviser Service to review the developer’s designs for the new primary school scheduled for Sep-24.	AMBER	Lack of visibility from the Developer on their build programme for this school.
Cornfield SEND classrooms and hall expansion	GREEN	Updated Feasibility Study has recommenced, which includes options to expand by either or 2 or 3 classrooms as requested by the school.	GREEN	School is seeking additional land, and active investigations are underway to look at options to meet this need.
Community Schools Capital Maintenance	GREEN	No issues with the block managed programme. Projects are assessed using the established condition grading and subject to regular review meetings.	GREEN	Tranche 1 of 2023/24 programme has been released.
Devolved Formula Capital Grant (DFCG)	GREEN	Nothing to report.	GREEN	Not applicable.
Edward Bryant Academy - Construction of Special Support Centre	AMBER	Additional funds approved. There has been a delay of 6-8 weeks in the submission of the Planning Application and updated contractors programme awaited.	AMBER	Planning application planned to be submitted w/c 24th April 2023. Estimated completion date February 2024.
Felpham Community College Construction of new Special Support Centre	AMBER	The programme is at risk due to discharging of planning conditions. Stage 4 design has been issued to the contractors for their response.	AMBER	Delays in planning have resulted in an overall delay to the programme and efforts are being made to expedite as much as possible.
Fordwater (Chichester High) SEND (School Managed Project)	AMBER	WSSC to lease the Aspire building on the CHS site to enable a 14-19 complex needs provision for Fordwater, starting an on-going partnership with Chichester High School and TKAT and ensuring sufficient SEND places in Chichester.	AMBER	No further update.
Forest School Co-Ed Works and Science Labs	AMBER	Works have completed and final close out activities are underway.	AMBER	Defect work will be scheduled in during school summer holidays to enable access.
Hérons Dale SEND Additional classroom, WCs and staff space	RED	Time delays of 6-7 weeks to the completion of all required site surveys due to the school restricting access.	RED	Final site survey has been completed. Supply chain engaged and design work has commenced.
Holy Trinity School - Heating/Windows (latent defects)	GREEN	Date for programme of works to be agree with school	GREEN	No further update.
Maidenbower Infants Special Support Centre – conversion	AMBER	Change Request approved for change of location of SSC.	AMBER	Change of scope/location agreed and programme dates to be defined

Scheme	RAG Status at Mar 2023	Reason	Latest RAG Status	Updated Position
of Children & Family Centre (CFC)		Programme Amber until programme dates defined.		following project kick-off meeting.
Midhurst Rother College Increased hygiene provision	GREEN	Time delays due to reduced scope from additional changing rooms to increasing the number of showers to ensure facilities are in accordance with standards.	GREEN	Survey information collated. Draft options prepared and presented to WSCC.
Palatine School 4-class SEN expansion	BLUE	Practical Completion achieved.	BLUE	Final snagging works completed over the over Easter holidays.
Parklands Primary	RED	Ongoing, persistent defect-management. Awaiting comment on the proposed settlement agreement.	RED	Settlement not yet agreed.
QEII Silver Jubilee School Modular Building	AMBER	Works substantially completed (including infill of drainage trenches). Southern Water drainage works scheduled for May half term, subject to agreement by school and residents.	AMBER	Compensation package still to be agreed with residential occupier.
QEII Arun House Satellite site - SEN	AMBER	Key Decision effective from 17/03/23. Mobilisation works underway. Design work continues.	AMBER	Lease with Horsham District Council not yet finalised due to issues with repairing obligations previously agreed but not reflected.
S106 Burgess Hill Academy - bulge class	GREEN	Awaiting contractors cost and programme following site visits.	GREEN	Programme awaited.
S106 Bohunt School	GREEN	Purchase of site and reimbursement of 90% of purchase price from DfE and passporting of S106 contributions.	GREEN	Exchange of all funds has not yet completed.
S106 Downlands Modular Building	RED	Change in proposed contractor appointed under PCSA which affects the project completion date. Further risk to completion if planning not determined by the end of May 2023 as this is critical path.	RED	Planning Application validated 31st March, due for determination 26th May.
S106 Forest School All Weather Pitch	RED	Planning committee date being held up by revised water neutrality statement, will be likely be received end of April.	RED	Risk that parts of field may need to be excavated for drainage. Likely project will have to be retendered due to delays.
S106 infrastructure Programme	GREEN	Programme of works - Individual schemes over £0.5m will be reported on separately	GREEN	No issues highlighted.
S106 IT & FFE Programme	GREEN	Programme is on schedule and within budget.	GREEN	No issues highlighted.
S106 Linfield Primary classroom	AMBER	Outline costs indicate approved budget not sufficient.	AMBER	Options being reviewed to maximise savings.

Scheme	RAG Status at Mar 2023	Reason	Latest RAG Status	Updated Position
extension with associated facilities				
S106 River Beach Primary School Construction of new bulge class	BLUE	Practical Completion achieved.	BLUE	Operations and Maintenance Manual being updated for handover to WSCC.
S106 Slinfold Permanent 2-class extension (replacing life expired modulars)	RED	Delay of approx. 6 months incurred due to findings of ecological surveys. It has been identified that a Natural England license will be required prior to the commencement of the works.	RED	Surveys of newt populations will be required in April 2023, followed by application for the license to commence works.
S106 Steyning Grammar (School Managed Project)	GREEN	Remodelling. Leaving Church Street site to leased building The Towers (with modifications) and improvements to Shooting Field site entrance and updates to Inclusion Centre.	GREEN	No issues to report.
S106 St Philip Howard (School Managed Project)	GREEN	New teaching block incorporating eight classrooms, office space, toilets and a lift for disabled access.	GREEN	Academy Trust have not yet awarded the contract for the new building.
S106 Tanbridge House - Refurbishment of the All-Weather Pitch	GREEN	Issues with sub-base and availability of weldmesh fencing resulting in additional work to be undertaken.	GREEN	Contractor will be returning to site in Spring 2023 to cut in additional lines.
S106 Warden Park – Enlarged and redesignated SSC (School Managed Project)	AMBER	Review of project funding required.	AMBER	Key Decision for full funding in Forward Plan for April 2023.
Safeguarding Programme	GREEN	A programme of works across 19 school sites. Outcomes of programme delivered.	GREEN	Final account being reviewed.
Schools Access Initiative Programme	GREEN	No issues with the Programme of Minor adaptations at various schools to ensure access to curriculum	GREEN	Further funding agreed over five years.
St Margaret's Primary Special Support Centre	AMBER	Planning Application for the new access is still to be determined. This will impact construction works on site.	AMBER	Development Agreement now in place.
West Park Primary 4-place expansion of Special Support Centre	AMBER	Work has commenced on site. Contractor programme issued.	AMBER	Latest forecast completion date is mid-October 2023.
Whitehouse Farmland west of Chichester Primary School	AMBER	No proposals submitted to date for review of quality.	AMBER	No further update.
Woodlands Meed College Construction of new SEN College	AMBER	Handover of Section 1 will be delayed to the end of the summer. As a result, Section 2 handover forecast for end of Feb 2024	AMBER	Meeting arranged with the school to review access routes during phase two.

28. A number of capital schemes have completed during the 2022/23 financial year, these include:

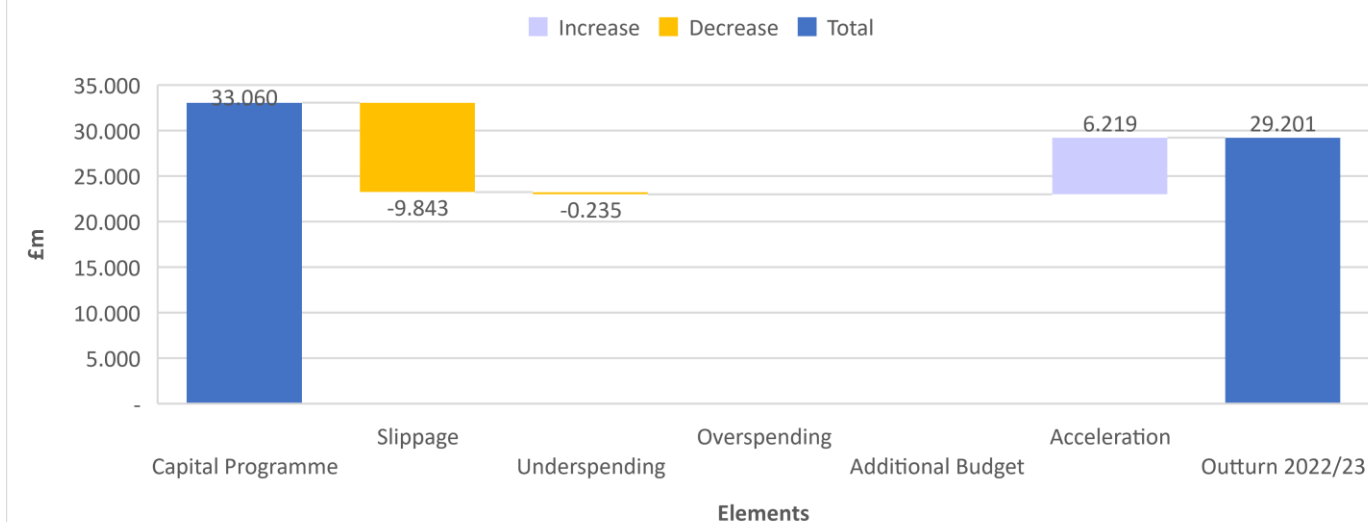
Month Completed	Project	Location	Description
June 2022	Nyewood CoE School	Arun	New hall and alterations to car park / landscaping and reconfiguring of reception area.
September 2022	Forest School Co-Education works	Horsham	Adaptation works to enable girls to be admitted (female toilets/changing rooms & investment in PE, Technology and STEM facilities) includes strip out and refurb of two Science labs.
March 2023	Palatine SEN Primary School	Worthing	Provision of four-classroom block with associated facilities. Provision of temporary accommodation. Removal of an existing modular unit in poor condition
March 2023	River Beach Primary	Arun	Permanent build to accommodate a current bulge class & remodelling and extension of existing changing rooms funded from Section 106 developer contributions.

Finance Summary - Capital

29. The capital programme; as approved by County Council in February 2022, agreed a programme totalling £30.774m for 2022/23. Budget of £2.286m originally profiled to spend in 2021/22, was slipped into 2022/23, revising the capital programme to £33.060m.

30. During the year, the Learning and Skills Portfolio spent £29.201m on its capital programme, a reduction of £6.514m when compared to the profiled spend in reported in December 2022. Investment in the year focussed around the Council's requirement to create pupil places in mainstream and special school environments with capital works at a number of sites including Woodlands Mead College, Palatine Special School and Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee School. In addition, a large number of community school capital maintenance projects also took place during the year to ensure West Sussex schools are operational and safe.

Capital Programme - Learning and Skills 2022/23



Key:

Capital Programme – The revised planned expenditure for 2022/23 as at 1st April 2022.

Slippage – Funding which was planned to be spent in 2022/23 but has since been reprofiled into future years.

Underspending – Unused funding following the completion of projects.

Overspending – Projects that require further funding over and above the original approved budget.

Additional Budget – Additional external funding that has entered the capital programme for the first time.

Acceleration – Agreed funding which has been brought forward from future years.

Outturn 2022/23 – Total capital programme expenditure as at 31st March 2023.

31. Details of the mains movements since December are as follows:

- **Slippage: (-£9.843m). Movement since Q3 report: (-£7.924m).**

- **Woodlands Meed College - (-£4.080m)** – A revised phasing of this project by the contractor has led to the required reprofiling of the project into future years. In addition, the redesign of the lift have also been a factor.
- **Bedelands Academy - (-£0.793m)** - Following appointment of the contractor, more accurate information has been received therefore funding has been reprofiled into future years.
- **St Margaret's SSC - (-£0.341m)** - An extension of time to the tender return period has adding delays to the tender evaluation process. Consequently, this has delayed the construction start date resulting in £0.324m being reprofiled into future years.
- **West Park SSC - (-£0.347m)** - An extension of time to the tender return period has adding delays to the tender evaluation process. Consequently, this has delayed the construction start date resulting in £0.344m being reprofiled into future years.
- **St Phillip Howard - (-£0.370m)** – This school managed project is currently on hold as the current cost estimates received are too high. The school are revisiting the scope of the project with the scheme not starting until the project can be fully funded. Funds have been profiled into future years.

- **Edward Bryant SSC – (-£0.266m)** – Construction will now start in the next financial year therefore funding has been reprofiled into 2023/24.
 - **QE2 – (-£0.272m)** - Drainage work and UK Power network works have been rescheduled to start in the new financial year. Funding has been reprofiled into 2023/24.
 - **Slinfold – (-£0.195m)** - A six-month delay to the overall programme has arisen due to ecological issues (newts). Construction will now start in 2023/24, therefore funding has been reprofiled into the 2023/24 financial year.
 - **Downlands – (-£0.188m)** - The tender period has been extended which has led to delays in the works programme. Funding has been reprofiled into 2023/24.
 - **Section 106 FFE & IT Block Allocation – (-£0.101m)** – There is a small amount of slippage due to the in-year expenditure being slightly less than profiled. Funding has been reprofiled into 2023/24.
 - **Community Schools Capital Maintenance – (-£0.105m)** - There is a small amount of slippage due to the in-year expenditure being slightly less than profiled. Funding has been reprofiled into 2023/24.
 - **Felpham Community College SSC – (-£0.106m)** - There is a small amount of slippage due to the in-year expenditure being slightly less than profiled. Funding has been reprofiled into 2023/24.
- **Underspending: (-£0.235m). Movement since Q3 report: (-£0.008m).**
 - **Acceleration: £6.219m. Movement since Q3 report: £1.418m.**
 - **Devolved Formula Capital Grant - £0.562m** – This budget line is held by the schools direct. Schools have spent more than we anticipated and therefore the programme has been adjusted.
 - **Schools Access Initiative - £0.103m** - Approval has been given for £1.5m of budget over five years equating to £0.3m per annum. This programme funds small reactive adaptations and improvements to schools of all types in West Sussex to meet the needs of individual children. £0.103m has been utilised in 2022/23.
 - **Section 106 Infrastructure Programme - £0.097m** - Works have progressed quicker than estimated, therefore funding has been accelerated into 2022/23.
 - **Palatine - £0.183m** - Works have progressed quicker than expected, therefore funding has been accelerated into 2022/23.
 - **Holy Trinity Primary – £0.072m** - Small amount of acceleration into 2022/23 as costs profiled were slightly different to actuals.

32. The latest Capital Programme Budget Monitor is reported in **Appendix 3** and full details of all individual schemes are set out in the Budget Report published in February 2022.

Grants Update - Capital

33. Since the approval of the Capital Programme in February 2022, a number of grants have been awarded. These allocated are required to go through governance and will ultimately be added to the five-year Capital Programme. In recent months, the County Council has been notified of the following grants.

New Capital Grant Notification	Value (£)
Schools Capital Maintenance – The capital programme estimated a grant allocation of £8.350m, however the final grant allocation awarded has been confirmed at £8.797m; an increase of £0.447m. This grant is to support the improvement and maintenance of our school buildings.	£447,000

Risk

34. There are no corporate risks assigned to this portfolio. Risks allocated to other portfolios are specified within the respective portfolio sections. Further detail on all risks can be found in **Appendix 4** - Corporate Risk Register Summary.

35. Full details of the latest Risk Register, including actions and mitigations can be found under the County Council's Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committee Agenda website.