

Learning and Skills Portfolio - Summary

Performance Summary

- The Portfolio has a number of performance highlights to report this quarter:
 - Ofsted inspections of schools demonstrate that by the end of March 2022, 88.8% of schools were judged to be either Good or Outstanding and this was an all-time high. The number of children attending Good or Outstanding schools rose again and reached 89.3%, 1.3% above the target set for the end of the year.
 - The proportion of young people not in education, employment, or training as at the end of February 2022, the latest data available, stood at 2.3% with an additional 3.6% unknown. This gives a combined figure of 5.9% which compares to a national figure of 4.6% and a figure of 5.1% across the Southeast. It shows fewer young people are NEET or unknown than the target of 7% set and also represents an improvement of 1.4% in West Sussex against the same period in 2021.

Our Council Performance Measures

Learning and Skills	2021/22 Target	Performance Over The Last 3 Periods			DoT	Performance Analysis	Actions
		2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
21 The percentage of young people attaining Grade 4 and above for Maths and English GCSE by age of 16 years old Reporting Frequency: Annually	67.0%	66.2%	72.2%	75.2%	↗	Mar-22: Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the summer exam series was cancelled in 2020 and in 2021. Pupils scheduled to sit GCSE and A/AS level exams in 2020 were awarded either a centre assessment grade (based on what the school or college believed the student would most likely have achieved had exams gone ahead) or their calculated grade using a model developed by Ofqual - whichever was the higher of the two. In January 2021, the government decided that it would not be fair for GCSE, AS and A level exams to take place in summer 2021 because of the disruption to students' education caused by the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. Instead, students received grades based on assessments by their teachers: Teacher Assessed Grades or TAGs. The DfE aimed to make sure that students had the greatest opportunity to show the full breadth of their knowledge and understanding based on what they had been taught.	The GCSE grades awarded to pupils in 2020 and 2021 will remain with them as they stay on in further and higher education or enter employment after leaving school. However, the cancellation of summer 2020 and 2021 GCSE exams and the new method of awarding grades has led to a set of pupil attainment statistics that are unlike previous years. Each of the pupil level attainment statistics have increased - more than would be expected in a typical year - between the 2018/19 to 2020/21 academic years. This reflects the change to the way GCSE grades were awarded rather than improvements in pupil performance. As a result the 2019/20 and 2020/21 data should not be directly compared to attainment data from previous years for the purposes of measuring changes in student performance. Please note that schools are not accountable to Local Authorities and government departments, such as Ofsted, relating to these grades and the cancellation of exams does not give any meaningful comparison between 2019, 2020 and 2021, as each of these years had different marking criteria.

Learning and Skills		2021/22 Target	Performance Over The Last 3 Periods			DoT	Performance Analysis	Actions
25	Percentage of schools with OFSTED rating 'good' or 'outstanding' Reporting Frequency: Quarterly	88.5%	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22	<p>Mar-22: The total for West Sussex schools that are judged good or outstanding has risen slightly and is now at with a recent all time high of 88.8%. This figure is 0.4% higher than the equivalent figures shown in the previous month, with one secondary school becoming good from requires improvement since last month. For March 2022, the percentage for each school phase is as follows:</p> <p>Primary Schools = 87.7%; Secondary Schools = 92.1%; Special Schools = 100%</p> <p>Due to the Covid-19 pandemic Ofsted inspections had only just restarted in September 2021, and a growing number of schools have been inspected during the current academic year and, therefore, this is the latest position.</p>	Ofsted inspections, which had been suspended during the main part of the Pandemic, and due to national and local lockdowns had only just restarted in September 2021, and a growing number of schools have been inspected during the current academic year and, therefore, this is the latest position.	
			87.6%	88.4%	88.8%			↗
26	Percentage of pupils and students accessing Ofsted 'good' or 'outstanding' schools Reporting Frequency: Quarterly	88.0%	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22	<p>Mar-22: The total for West Sussex pupils in schools that are judged good or outstanding has improved again this month. This figure is 1.3% higher than the equivalent figure shown in the previous month and is at an all time high of 89.3%. One secondary school was rated good from requires improvement since last month For March 2022, the percentage for each school phase is as follows:</p> <p>Primary Schools = 86.3%; Secondary Schools = 93.1%; Special Schools = 100%</p> <p>Due to the Covid-19 pandemic Ofsted inspections had only just restarted in September 2021, and a growing number of schools have been inspected during the current academic year and, therefore, this is the latest position.</p>	Ofsted inspections, which had been suspended during the main part of the Pandemic, and due to national and local lockdowns had only just restarted in September 2021, and a growing number of schools have been inspected during the current academic year and, therefore, this is the latest position.	
			86.6%	87.6%	89.3%			↗
27	Percentage achieving expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined at the end of Key Stage 2 Reporting Frequency: Annually	64.0%	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	<p>Mar-22: No results collected for 2021 due to the pandemic</p>	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.	
			55.0%	61.8%	62.7%			↗

Learning and Skills		2021/22 Target	Performance Over The Last 3 Periods			DoT	Performance Analysis	Actions
28	Average attainment 8 score of students at Key Stage 4 including English and Maths Reporting Frequency: Annually	47.5	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Mar-22: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the summer exam series was cancelled in 2020 and in 2021. Pupils scheduled to sit GCSE and A/AS level exams in 2020 were awarded either a centre assessment grade (based on what the school or college believed the student would most likely have achieved had exams gone ahead) or their calculated grade using a model developed by Ofqual - whichever was the higher of the two. In January 2021, the government decided that it would not be fair for GCSE, AS and A level exams to take place in summer 2021 because of the disruption to students' education caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Instead, students received grades based on assessments by their teachers: Teacher Assessed Grades or TAGs. The DfE aimed to make sure that students had the greatest opportunity to show the full breadth of their knowledge and understanding based on what they had been taught.	The GCSE grades awarded to pupils in 2020 and 2021 will remain with them as they stay on in further and higher education or enter employment after leaving school. However, the cancellation of summer 2020 and 2021 GCSE exams and the new method of awarding grades has led to a set of pupil attainment statistics that are unlike previous years. Each of the pupil level attainment statistics have increased - more than would be expected in a typical year - between the 2018/19 to 2020/21 academic years. This reflects the change to the way GCSE grades were awarded rather than improvements in pupil performance. As a result the 2019/20 and 2020/21 data should not be directly compared to attainment data from previous years for the purposes of measuring changes in student performance. Please note that schools are not accountable to Local Authorities and government departments, such as Ofsted, relating to these grades and the cancellation of exams does not give any meaningful comparison between 2019, 2020 and 2021, as each of these years had different marking criteria.	
			46.9	50.3	51.6			↗
29	Percentage attainment gap of disadvantaged pupils compared with non-disadvantaged peers at the end of Key Stage 2 Reporting Frequency: Annually	24.0%	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Mar-22: No results collected for 2021 due to the pandemic	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 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.	
			23.3%	23.4%	25.3%			↘

Learning and Skills		2021/22 Target	Performance Over The Last 3 Periods			DoT	Performance Analysis	Actions
			Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22			
30	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) Reporting Frequency: Quarterly	7.0%	6.6%	5.5%	6.0%	↓	Mar-22: The County Council's target is to reduce the percentage of NEET/Not Known young people to 5.0% by 2025. For 21/22 the combined target is 7.0% for the 3-month period Dec-Feb. The latest validated 3-month average is available: The NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) figure stands at 2.04% and the current Not Known figure is 3.95%. The combined figure, of 5.99%, is an improvement of 1.67% from 2020/21. Compared to England combined figure of 4.72% and the South East, 5.45% is currently worse than those areas, but the gap has narrowed from 2.18% and 1.25% for national and South East, respectively, to 1.27% and 0.46%, respectively. West Sussex is now ranked 126th out of 152 local authorities, up 11 places from last year, but is in the top quintile for improvements of all authorities since 2020/21 and is the 9th most improved in relation to County Local Authorities. Although our Not Knowns are currently higher than most of our statistical neighbours, the improvements to collection of data and relationships with schools, colleges and other establishments has seen a marked improvement and is lower than the 3-month 21/22 target of 7.0% combined.	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.

Finance Summary

Portfolio In Year Pressures and Mitigations

Pressures	(£m)	Mitigations and Underspending	(£m)	Year end budget variation (£m)
Covid-19 pandemic expenditure	£1.767m	Funding from Covid-19 grant	(£1.767m)	
Home to School Transport costs; predominantly Special Educational Needs	£2.581m	Staffing vacancies within the School Effectiveness Service and Early Years' Service	(£0.244m)	
Undelivered 2020/21 and 2021/22 trading services (£0.150m) and home to school transport savings (£0.037m)	£0.212m	Staffing vacancies within Inclusion and School Crossing Patrol Service	(£0.250m)	
		Staffing vacancies within Schools Services team and School Crossing Patrol Service	(£0.202m)	
		In year underspending from homeworking/ change in service delivery due to pandemic restrictions	(£0.090m)	
		Other minor variations	(£0.369m)	
Learning and Skills Portfolio - Total	£4.560m		(£2.922m)	£1.638m

Significant Financial Issues and Risks Arising

Key Financial Issues and Risks Arising		Narrative	Cost Driver	Baseline (March 2020)	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Action	Trajectory	
1	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	207 (11.3%)	224 (11.4%)	200 (10.0%)	207 (10.0%)	230 (11.0%)	↗	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.	↗
			No of pupils with EHCP transported to a special school	1,240 (67.8%)	1,265 (64.6%)	1,299 (65.0%)	1,334 (64.6%)	1,316 (62.8%)	↘		
			No of pupils with EHCP transported to independent placements	381 (20.8%)	468 (24.0%)	500 (25.0%)	525 (25.4%)	549 (26.2%)	↗		
			Total no of pupils with EHCP transported	1,828 (100%)	1,957 (100%)	1,999 (100%)	2,066 (100%)	2,095 (100%)	↗		
2	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 transport their own child to and from school instead.	No of pupils with EHCP transported in an external taxi/minibus	1,331 (72.8%)	1,394 (71.2%)	1,340 (67.0%)	1,393 (67.4%)	1,421 (67.8%)	↗	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, recent insourcing has focused on expensive accessible vehicle routes and/or where the biggest cost reductions can be made.	↔
			No of pupils with EHCP transported on County Council fleet	443 (24.2%)	462 (23.6%)	551 (27.6%)	559 (27.1%)	563 (26.8%)	↘		
			No of pupils with EHCP transported by parents	54 (2.9%)	101 (5.2%)	108 (5.4%)	114 (5.5%)	111 (5.3%)	↘		
			Total no of pupils with EHCP transported	1,828 (100%)	1,957 (100%)	1,999 (100%)	2,066 (100%)	2,095 (100%)	↔		
3	Daily transport cost of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) receiving external transport	The daily cost of SEND external taxi and escort provision has been increasing annually by approximately 10% over the last couple of years. This is mostly due to increased demand (numbers of pupils with an EHCP requiring transport), but also due to additional inflation pressures such minimum living wage.	Current daily cost of SEND external taxi provision across all provision	Average 2020/21 £52.1k	£56.0k	£56.0k	£52.4k	£57.3k	↗	Accessible minibuses (including escort) can easily cost £220 per day with a few up to £300. We are starting to experience Inflationary pressures due to increasing fuel and staffing costs which are evident in the Q4 average daily cost.	↗
			Current daily cost of SEND external escort provision across all provision	Average 2020/21 £10.6k	£11.3k	£11.3k	£10.9k	£11.9k	↗		

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

Key Financial Issues and Risks Arising	Narrative	Cost Driver	Baseline (March 2021)	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Action	Trajectory	
4	Placement mix of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) Our High Needs expenditure is largely driven by the number of pupils with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP). The 2021/22 budget has been set based on a further 500 pupils this year. Although overall growth so far this year is in line with this, a greater proportion of these children are being placed in more costly placements within the independent sector.	No of pupils with EHCP in mainstream school	1,949 (31.9%)	1,997 (32.0%)	1,845 (29.0%)	1,921 (30.1%)	1,921 (30.1%)	↗	West Sussex has significantly less learners with EHCPs in their mainstream secondary schools than the national picture. A small specialist outreach team has therefore been created as a two-year pilot to support the inclusion of these learners in their local mainstream school.	↗
		No of pupils with EHCP in special school / SSC	2,166 (35.4%)	2,183 (35.0%)	2,288 (36.0%)	2,284 (35.7%)	2,273 (34.9%)	↘		
		No of pupils with EHCP in independent placements	615 (10.0%)	647 (10.4%)	669 (10.5%)	688 (10.8%)	715 (11.0%)	↗		
		No of pupils with EHCP in post school placements	1,127 (18.4%)	1,102 (17.6%)	1,309 (20.6%)	1,226 (19.1%)	1,215 (18.7%)	↘		
		No of pupils with EHCP in other placement type	254 (4.2%)	314 (5.0%)	246 (3.9%)	272 (4.3%)	319 (4.9%)	↗		
		Total no of pupils with EHCP	6,111 (100%)	6,243 (100%)	6,357 (100%)	6,391 (100%)	6,510 (100%)	↔		
5	Increase Placement mix of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) The 2021/22 budget has been set on the basis of a further 500 pupils with an EHCP this year. Although overall growth so far this year is in line with this, a greater proportion of these children are being placed in more costly placements within the independent sector.	Increase in no of pupils with EHCP in mainstream school	159	48 (2.5%)	-104 (-5.3%)	-28 (-1.4%)	39 (2.0%)	↗	The higher level of increased placements in the independent sector is largely due to lack of capacity in WSSC's settings. 84 additional places were made available from September 2021, but the increased capacity at a number of special schools has only been achievable through the hire of expensive temporary classrooms. Whilst new building work is planned this will take time and therefore in the medium term, it is expected that the number of independent sector placements will continue to rise at a faster rate.	↗
		Increase in no of pupils with EHCP in special school / SSC	177	17 (0.8%)	122 (5.6%)	118 (5.4%)	107 (4.9%)	↘		
		Increase in no of pupils with EHCP in independent placements	51	32 (5.2%)	54 (8.8%)	73 (11.7%)	100 (16.3%)	↗		
		Increase in no of pupils with EHCP in post school placements	91	-25 (-2.2%)	182 (16.1%)	99 (8.8%)	88 (7.8%)	↘		
		Increase in no of pupils with EHCP in other placement type	22	60 (23.6%)	-8 (-3.1%)	18 (7%)	65 (25.6%)	↗		
		Total increase in no of pupils with EHCP	500	132 (2.2%)	246 (4.0%)	280 (4.5%)	65 (25.6%)	↔		
6	Cost of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in an Independent and Non-maintained Special School The 2021/22 budget has been set on the basis of the average Independent and Non-maintained sector placement cost being £46k per week.	Average annual cost	£46k	£48k	£48.5k	£48k	£47.5k	↘	Average independent sector costs increased by £2k per annum at the beginning of the year but have stabilised since. These costs are expected to escalate again in the new financial year.	↗

Financial Narrative on the Portfolio's Position

2. The 2021/22 outturn position for the Learning and Skills Portfolio budget is an overspend of £1.638m. This is a reduction of £0.219m when compared to the £1.857m overspend forecasted in December. The main movement during this period relates to a reduction in staffing expenditure and other minor variations.

Review of the 2021/22 Financial Year

3. The Home to School Transport service overspent by £2.618m over the last year. Within this total, the mainstream transport provision overspent by £0.509m. 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.
4. SEND transport provision overspent by £2.160m. This was due to a number of different factors:
 - Increased demand for taxi and escort transport provision as a result of the continuing increase in the number of children with an Education and Health Care Plan (£1.563m),
 - Increased use of the internal fleet (£0.349m). Without the use of the internal fleet the cost of those routes would have been £0.2m higher.
 - Increase in the cost of transport provision provided to pupils attending the West Sussex Alternative College (£0.096m). The level of costs that can be charged to the DSG High Needs block is fixed at an historic level and therefore any additional expenditure falls to the County Council to pick up.
 - The net cost of recoupment activity (transport provided to pupils travelling across the county boundaries) resulted in a further overspend of £0.115m.
 - The non-delivery of £0.037m of the planned £0.5m transport savings.
5. In terms of Post-16 transport provision, there was a small net underspend of £0.051m mostly due to an accounting adjustment relating to a prior year commitment.
6. School trading income has not grown significantly over recent years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This has had an adverse effect on the ability to generate the £0.175m increase in income savings. Although a number of new traded income streams have been developed, the additional income generated in 2021/22 was offset by a £0.1m under collection on teacher training income from schools (when compared to 2018/19 levels).
7. To help mitigate these overspending pressures, other service areas have tried to reduce spending on non-essential items and hold staff vacancies where possible. These underspends included:

- Staff underspending within the School Effectiveness Service (£0.157m) and Early Years' Service (£0.087m) due to vacancies being held ahead of directorate re-structure,
- Staff underspending within the Inclusion Service (£0.250m) largely due to delays with recruiting to new posts at the beginning of the financial year,
- Staff underspending within Schools Services team (£0.102m) partly due to maximising administration charge against Holiday and Activities Fund and School Crossing Patrol Service (£0.100m) due to vacancies throughout the year.

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

8. The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation after academy recoupments and deductions in 2021/22 totalled £471.5m and was made up of four separate funding blocks: Schools block (£371.3m), High Needs block (£96.2m), Central School Services block (£6.8m) and Early Years block (£51.1m).
9. The balance on the Dedicated Schools Grant reserves at the beginning of the 2021/22 financial year stood at -£10.388m deficit. After allowing for the estimated £7.0m High Needs budgeted shortfall for 2021/22 and the retrospective adjustment to the Early Years 2020/21 DSG allocation of £0.357m made in November 2021, the December 2021 balance in reserves stood at a deficit of £17.745m.
10. The final position on the DSG in 2021/22 was an overspend of £7.759m. The main variations across the four DSG funding blocks were as follows.

Dedicated Schools Grant – 2021/22	Variation £m
Early Years Block	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Years Providers – £0.720m underspending offset by £0.620m reduction in DSG funding announced in Jan 2022 	-0.100
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centrally Retained – Staffing underspends in Early Years teams 	-0.194
Early Years Block Total	-0.294
High Needs Block	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent and Non-maintained Schools – The 21/22 budget that was set allowed for 666 places. By the end of the year 715 children with an EHCP were actually being placed in the independent sector. 	+3.651
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioned College Placements and Alternative Provision 	-0.233
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-16 SEND College Placements – The number of additional placements incurring a cost have increased by 53 during the year. (This compares to a budgeted increase of 17 placements). 	+1.240

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-16 Specialist Independent Provider Placements – Numbers have increased by 18 during the year (compared to a budgeted increase of 3). 	+0.696
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceptional Needs and Top Up Funding – Increased number of ENF allocations and mainstream top-ups. 420 placements attracted ENF funding in 21/22 compared to 292 allowed for in the budget. 	+1.625
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional placements at two special school academies 	+0.563
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist Support – Significantly higher level of spend on NTAS and SENSe learning packages where children may otherwise have been out of school. 	+1.387
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for Schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Additional portacabins at St Anthonys and Manor Green College ➢ Schools in Financial Difficulty ➢ Area Inclusion and Improvement Boards ➢ Contribution to residential disability homes ➢ Staffing underspends within Virtual School ➢ Staffing underspends within Inclusion Service and Pupil Entitlement 	+0.392
	-0.211
	-0.081
	-0.135
	-0.132
	-0.158
High Needs Block Total	+8.604
Schools Block	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for Schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Growth Fund – Unspent funds within £2.5m allocation ➢ Rates – Actual rates bills in excess of estimates less refunds for academy conversions during the year ➢ Property costs 	-0.031
	-0.010
	-0.054
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other De-delegated Services - Underspendings within Free School Meals Eligibility Checking Service, and cover for professional associations 	-0.036
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Duties – Underspending on redundancies budget due to very few school restructures during the year 	-0.300
Schools Block Total	-0.431
Central Block	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for Schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Admissions legal costs ➢ Staffing underspendings within Pupil Entitlement (Admissions and Investigations teams) ➢ Staffing overspendings within Capital Planning Team 	-0.048
	-0.118
	+0.046
Central Block Total	-0.120
Total	+7.759

11. As a result of the £7.759m overspending, there is now a deficit of £25.504m within the DSG reserves at the end of 2021/22.

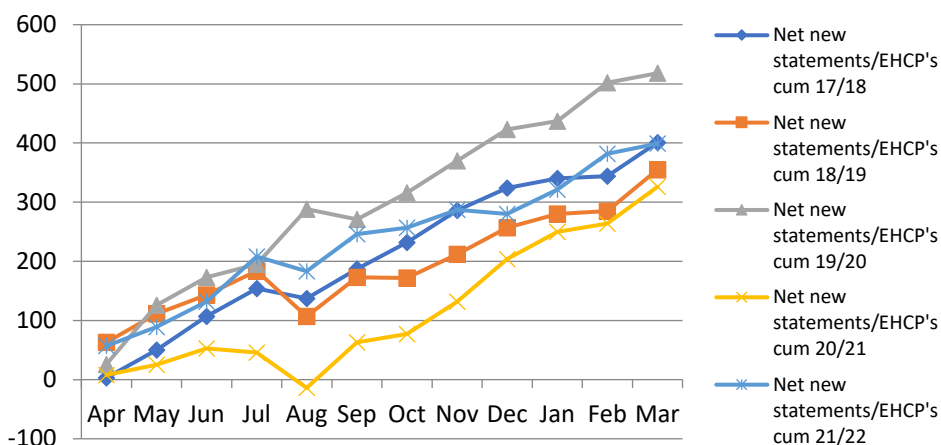
	DSG Unusable Reserve £m
December 2021 Balance	-17.745
Early Years Block Underspending	0.294
High Needs Block Overspending	-8.604
Schools Block Underspending	0.431
Central Block Underspending	0.120
2021/22 Year End Balance (Deficit)	-25.504

12. The DSG conditions of grant require all Local Authorities with a deficit to submit a plan for managing it to their Schools Forum.

Cost Driver Information

13. The Education and Health Care Plan assesses the needs of a child in the context of the Education budget, it is a major cost driver in relation to the Local Authority funded Home to School Transport budget and the DSG funded High Needs block.
14. When the 2021/22 budget was set the overspending on High Needs this year was projected to be £7.0m, but this has increased by a further £8.6m over the last year. This is mainly due to the increased number of children being placed in high-cost independent placements, additional expenditure on specialist support and increased costs in mainstream settings despite the numbers being placed in this sector being lower than expected.
15. Between April 2015 and March 2021, the number of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) increased by 2,688 (78.5%) from 3,423 to 6,111. During 2021/22, this number has risen by a further 399.
16. One of the main reasons for the increasing level of EHCPs has been the extension of support to young people up to the age of 25. Statements previously lapsed at age 19, however since 2015 when the system was reformed, West Sussex, along with all other LAs, has been supporting a new cohort of young people aged 19-25 for which they have received no additional funding.

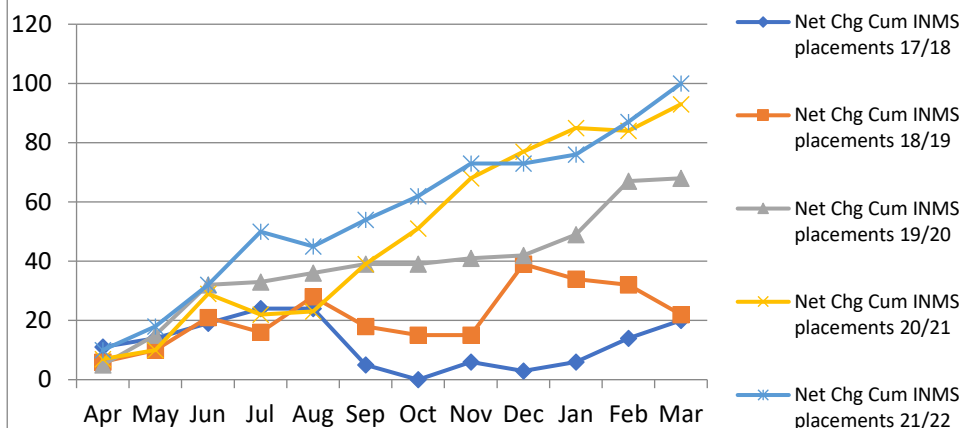
Net Total of New EHCPs



The total number of EHCP's has increased by 399 in 2021/22. This growth is lower than the 500 allowed for in the budget.

One of the reasons for the current growth in EHCPs being lower than budgeted, is the timeliness of the completion of EHCPs. Only 37.42% of EHCPs issued in the 2021 calendar year were issued within 20 weeks; with the average number of weeks to issue Final EHCPs standing at 28.3 weeks

Net Change in Independent and Non-Maintained Placements



Although total EHCP numbers have gone up by 6.53% this year, the number of pupils in Independent and Non-maintained Sector (INMS) settings, in particular has continued to rise at a much higher rate (16.26%).

Savings Delivery Update

17. The portfolio has a number of 2021/22 savings included within the budget and one saving outstanding from the 2020/21 financial year. Details of these savings are included in the table below:

Saving Activity	2020/21 Savings £000	March 2022		Narrative	2022/23
Improve School Trading Offer	150	25	R	School trading income has been affected by the pandemic and therefore income has not been generated to meet the new budgeted target.	G
		100	G		

Saving Activity	2021/22 Savings £000	March 2022		Narrative	2022/23
Home to school transport – increased internal fleet	300	300	G		G
Home to school transport – greater taxi competition	200	163	G	£0.163m saving has been achieved through some keener pricing, this is lower than the £0.2m target.	G
		37	R		R
Improve school trading offer (year 2 savings)	150	150	R	School trading income has been affected by the pandemic and therefore income has not been generated to meet the new budgeted target.	A
Charge Inclusion and Disadvantaged Pupils Programme to School Effectiveness	127	127	B		B
Review of Agency Staffing	4	4	B		B

Savings Key:

R Significant Risk	A At Risk	G On Track	B Delivered
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Capital Programme

Performance Summary - Capital

18. There are 45 schemes within the portfolio; 31 of the schemes in delivery are rated green, indicating that the schemes are progressing as planned, eight of the schemes are rated at amber, indicating that there is an issue, but that it can be dealt with by the project manager or project delivery team, four schemes are rated as red, indicating that there are significant issues requiring corrective action and two schemes are being managed by schools directly.

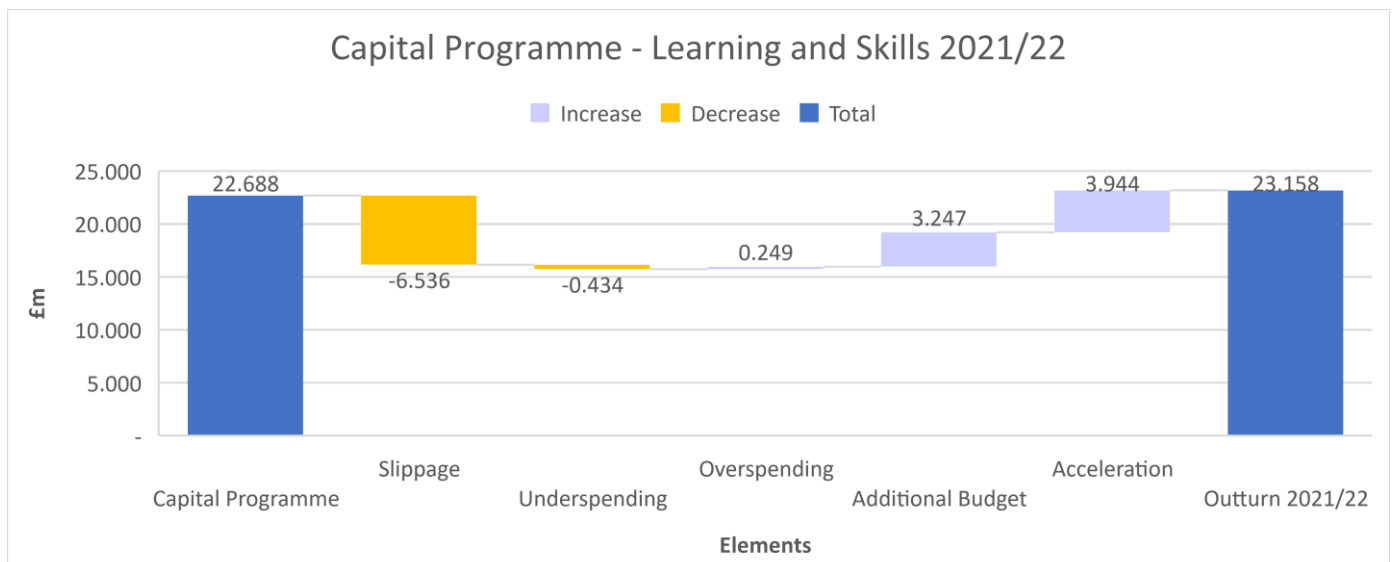
19. An update on the progress of the schemes rated red and amber are detailed in the table below.

Scheme	RAG Status at 31 st March	Reason	Latest RAG Status	Updated Position
Burgess Hill Northern Arc Secondary School	RED	Additional requirement for SEND Support Centre and target price.	RED	Time and cost pressures being reviewed.
Edward Bryant Special Support Centre	AMBER	Cost estimate following Feasibility higher than expected.	AMBER	Options being considered.
Forest School Co-Ed works	AMBER	Cost estimate following Feasibility higher than expected.	GREEN	Additional funding approved.
Maidenbower Infants - Special Support Centre	AMBER	Additional scope requires additional funding.	AMBER	Service to submit Change Request.

Scheme	RAG Status at 31st March	Reason	Latest RAG Status	Updated Position
Midhurst Rother College	AMBER	RIBA stage two cost increase.	GREEN	Key Decision approved providing required additional funding.
Nyewood CoE School	AMBER	Project completed - Small overspend to be rectified.	AMBER	Awaiting Change Request for additional funding.
Palatine SEN Primary School (Design)	RED	Planned completion date not achievable due to planning delays.	RED	
Parklands Primary	RED	Defects.	RED	Defect management to continue until August 2022.
QEII Silver Jubilee School	RED	Cost Pressures.	RED	Options being considered.
S106 Infrastructure Budget Programme	AMBER	Cost Pressures.	AMBER	Options being considered.
S106 Forest School AWP	AMBER	Water Neutrality statement not accepted resulting in delay.	AMBER	
S106 Slinfold - Design Stage	AMBER	September 2022 delivery at risk due to delays with the school bringing forward requirements.	AMBER	Options being considered.
Safeguarding Programme	AMBER	Final account indicates overspend, mainly due to work at Sheddingdean Primary School.	AMBER	Awaiting Change Request for additional funding.
Woodgate Primary School	AMBER	Project completed but issue with the safeguarding line of fencing.	AMBER	Options being considered.

Finance Summary - Capital

20. The capital programme; as approved by County Council in February 2021, agreed a programme totalling £19.506m for 2021/22. £3.182m of expenditure, originally profiled to spend in 2020/21, was slipped into 2021/22, revising the capital programme to £22.688m.
21. During the year, the Portfolio spent £23.158m, a reduction of £3.484m when compared to the profiled spend in December 2021.



Key:

Capital Programme – The revised planned expenditure for 2021/22 as at 1st April 2021.
 Slippage – Funding which was planned to be spent in 2021/22 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 2021/22 - Financial year capital programme expenditure.

22. Details of the main movements of the financial profiling within the capital programme between December and March are as follows:

- **Slippage: (-£6.536m). Movement since Q3 report: (-£4.152m).**
 - **Community Schools Capital Maintenance Grant: (-£0.773m).** This project has reprofiled due to several factors including materials shortage, procurement delays and schemes being reprocured. These have had a knock-on effect in delays for getting on site.
 - **S106 Infrastructure Programme - (-£0.808m)** – This block allocation is made up of twenty projects, there has been delays in relation to design, procurement, planning and reworking the scope of projects therefore £0.303m has been reprofiled into future years.
 - **Burgess Hill Northern Arc, West of Chichester and Pease Pottage Primary School – (-£0.310m)** - These projects are developer led school therefore WSCC’s role in the project is as a technical advisor only. £0.310m has been reprofiled into future years due to delays which has resulted in no designs being submitted, hence no costs being incurred as we have no designs to review.
 - **Forest Boys School – (-£0.350m)** – Funds has been reprofiled into 2022/23, due to the works on Phase Two science labs taking longer than first anticipated.
 - **St Margaret’s SSC – (£-0.235m)** - Funds has been reprofiled into 2022/23 due to delays in the design stage of the project

- **Section 106 FFE & IT – (£-0.178m)** – These works are being managed directly by the schools; works have not progressed as quickly as we were informed.
 - **Palatine – (-£0.176m)** – This project has been reprofiled into future years due to delays in planning, design & procurement
 - **Various Projects – (£1.322m)** – Balance of remaining slippage covering various Basic Need, S106 and Special Schools Sufficiency projects within the Portfolio.
- **Underspending: (-£0.434m). Movement since Q3 report: (-£0.024m).**
 - **Héronsedale: -£0.024m.** Project has completed and under budget therefore the remaining grant funding has been returned to SEND pipeline to help fund future projects.
- **Overspending: £0.249m. Movement since Q3 report: £0.249m.**
 - **Safeguarding in schools - £0.191m.** Works have overspent resulting in an additional £0.191m being spent in 2021/22.
 - **Warden Park, Cornfield and Whytemead Primary - £0.058m -** Small overspends on projects resulting in an additional £0.058m being spent in 2021/22.
- **Additional Budget: £3.247m. Movement since Q3 report: £0.000m.**
- **Acceleration: £3.944m. Movement since Q3 report: £0.443m.**
 - **Schools Access Initiative: £0.199m.** Funding has been accelerated due to an increase in requests from schools being higher than first anticipated.
 - **Devolved Formula Capital Grant: £0.244m.** This budget is held by individual schools. This year schools have spent more than we anticipated and therefore the programme has been adjusted.

Risk

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