

DR

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(Designate)

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(e) Members of the WSF commented as follows: -

There are concerns on managing parental expectations.

There is a need to build confidence and provision but accommodation and space in schools is a significant barrier.

The commissioning of services outside of the LA e.g. EPs has had significant consequences these skills have now been lost.

This is the consequence of flawed Government policy it should be about what is required to meet the significant growth in need and to provide services to meet that.

Given the demand pressures it is difficult to sign up to a £9m+ reduction albeit this would be overtime.

Where are the contributions from health and social care?

Demand management is crucial but there is ethos of a fractured system and unfunded government policy has impacted significantly.

Some schools are not engaging in the inclusion agenda.

There needs to be joined up thinking in supporting schools provision planning, SEND, accommodation, etc.

Capital and revenue planning and funding need to go together.

The wealth of experience and expertise in the LA and schools needs to be used.

(f) In response the LA commented: -

There needs to be challenge and review much earlier in the SEND processes.

July 2019. Andy provided the link to the questionnaire and that it was possible to complete electronic drafts on the DfE system prior to final submission.

RESOLVED –

WSF members to respond to the call for evidence as required.

Penny Richardson and David Monger left the meeting at 3.35pm

10. MAINTAINED SCHOOL BALANCES 2018-19

10.1 Andy introduced the report which detailed the revenue balances position for **maintained schools only** as at 31st March 2019.

10.2 The key headlines were: -

(a) From the LA: -

It is a reducing picture with a significant reduction in balances of £3.8m from £9.4m to £5.6m from the previous year.

Balances have reduced significantly over the last two-year period.

The number of schools in deficit had increased from 26 to 33 and the value of the deficits had increased significantly by from £5.4m to £7.2m, mainly in the primary and secondary sectors.

The light touch challenge to those schools with excess surplus balances would continue.

(b) From the WSF: -

The increase in deficits is a concern and there are some small schools in particular in this position.

However, some schools continue to hold significant surplus balances.

Some schools are allo

Noted the DSG C/Fwd position for 2018-19 as at 31st March 2019 and allocations made for the Pupil Growth Fund in Appendices B and C.

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