

Please complete this recovery plan template outlining how you will bring your DSG deficit back into balance within a 3 year time frame. Please complete all relevant fields and return the completed recovery plan to [financial.management@education.gov.uk](mailto:financial.management@education.gov.uk).

You may wish to include brief supporting attachments with your request such as forum minutes (if links not available) - these can be added towards the bottom of this page. Spreadsheet calculations should be included on the **Financial Summary** tab.

Local Authority	South Gloucestershire
Local Authority number	803
Does schools forum agree with this recovery plan and when was it presented to them?	
If yes, please provide link(s) to the minutes and action plans from the schools forum agreement	

What plans have you put in place to reduce the deficit in increments over the next 3 years?
The Council is developing a DSG sustainability plan in partnership with the Schools Forum, Parent/carers and all schools aimed at introducing greater value for money in the area of SEND spending. This partnership approach followed a major schools and public consultation that took place in 2018/19 where options including a large £3m transfer from the Schools Block and/or large reductions in school top-ups were not supported by schools, the public nor the Schools Forum. The plan which is still in development is looking at creating whole system change, covering: development of new local provision, early intervention cluster funding, matching special school and resource base provision to future need, reviews of out of authority placements, skills, guidance and culture change across all schools and fair and manageable DSG Block Transfers. All these changes will create positive impact on the deficit but are long term developments that will take much longer than 3 years to build up to maximum impact.

Word count: 158

Can you specify how continuous improvement has reduced the deficit/ is going to reduce the deficit? This could include sharing best practice, new contracts, efficiency savings
Since 2016/17 the Council has implemented a large scale change programme that has started to deliver significant improvements, for example the annual increase in SEND expenditure growth has reduced from 14% in 2015/16 to 1% in 2019/20. This has been achieved through: new Ready Reckoner to set fair and accurate Top-Up levels, new provision (new post 16 partnership with the local FE college, special school expansions and new Free schools), large £2.9m transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block, reviews of resource base provision, improved decision making framework through the use of multi-agency panels, a new SEND Strategy and sharing best practice with other LAs.

Word count: 108

Please provide details of any previous movements between blocks, what current cost pressures those movements covered, and why those transfers have not been adequate to counter the new cost pressures
The Council following agreement from the Schools Forum, the majority of schools and the Secretary of State for Education transferred £2.9m from the schools block to the high needs block in 2018-2019. Further plans to request transfers in 2019-20 were not supported by the Schools Forum hence the requirement to work in partnership with the Forum on future value for money initiatives. Previous transfers have not been sufficient to match growing demand through: increasing numbers of SEND pupils, increasing complexity of SEND requirements, increasing mental health issues, increasing tribunal cases, parental preferences for more expensive provision and increasing costs from private, voluntary and independent specialist providers. This mis-match between available funding and spending pressures has also been due to the fact there has been no significant real growth in High Needs Block funding over this period. Importantly, transfers cannot be seen as increased funding as they are simply transfers from schools mainstream budgets thus putting more pressure on schools abilities to support pupils with less complex SEND needs, which causes needs to escalate and create further High Needs Block pressures. This situation is further exacerbated by South Gloucestershire schools being the lowest DSG funded in the country.

Word count: 197

Please provide details of contributions coming from the health and social care budgets towards the cost of high needs provision
Our residential placements are supported by Social care budgets with a 67% contribution towards the annual cost of placement which covers the cost of care relating to a young person. Health contributions are minimal and only support approx 10 to 15 pupils ranging from 5% to 10% contribution of the placement cost.

Word count: 52

Please explain how the LA has discharged its duties under the Equality Act 2019, C&F Act 2014 and common law to consult with those affected by the changes proposed
All authority wide decisions taken thus far that impact on individual pupils and families have been taken in conjunction with consideration of a detailed Equalities Impact Assessment. Similarly all decisions taken regarding individual cases are taken with due consideration of legislative requirements including the Equality Act 2019 and the C&F Act 2014.

Word count: 52

Please include a summary of the savings/and or measure you propose to implement over the next three years which will reduce the overspend.
<a href="#">S1</a> Please refer to the answer in cells B20 and B23. In addition please refer to the High Needs Working Group's Terms of Reference and the HNWG High Level Strategy Diagram.

Please discuss the local circumstances that have contributed to your deficit. Please provide a brief summary of the pressures in the box below and transfer the forecast spend in this area on the financial summary tab via the appropriate link. Local authorities should consider providing budget pressures in the following areas: A) mainstream schools; B) state-funded special schools, C) further education and sixth form colleges, D) independent specialist provision; E) alternative provision
<a href="#">P1</a> Parental Preferences have increased for independent placements over a number of years. Difficult to challenge when the law sides with parents.
<a href="#">P2</a> Opening of Free School and increasing Local Provision in the future will create pressure on funding.
<a href="#">P3</a> Increase in number of EHCPs across the LA due to increase need and population growth.
<a href="#">P4</a> Pressure on Post 16 due to LA responsibilities increasing and parental preferences.

Please provide any further detail here if required, including any attachments that support your recovery plan and any disapplication

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Date	

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Recovery Plan number	
ID	
DfE Response to Plan	
Details of the Decision	
Name	
Date	
Type of Notification	

Further Information	
<a href="#">High Needs Funding Arrangements</a>	Information for local authorities and institutions about high needs funding arrangements for 2019 to 2020.
<a href="#">High Needs Benchmarking Tool</a>	Information for local authorities about strategic reviews, funding of high needs provision for children and young people with SEND and the High Needs benchmarking tool.

## DSG Deficit Recovery Plan

Ref.	Block	Type of provision e.g. special schools	Action e.g. increasing special school places	2018-19	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
				£	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
<b>DSG Balance b/f</b>					0	0	0
<b>Savings (figures should be entered as negative values)</b>							
S1	High Needs	Mainstream and Special	Other	0			
<b>Total savings</b>				0	0	0	0
<b>Pressures (figures should be entered as positive values)</b>							
P1	High Needs	Independent Placements	Higher parental expectations				
P2	High Needs	Special Schools	Pressure on maintained special school capacity				
P3	High Needs	Early Years and Mainstream High Needs Provision	Increase in the number of EHC Plans				
P4	High Needs	Further Education (Independent and College)	Post-16 responsibilities				
<b>Additional Pressures (figures should be entered as positive values)</b>				0	0	0	0
Cost reductions from impact of recovery plan				0	0	0	0
Total DSG forecast overspend							
Net in year impact on High Needs DSG				0	0	0	0
Estimated High Needs Block change (additional grant)							
Approved transfer of schools block to HN block							
Other adjustments					0	0	0
<b>Net in year Forecast Outturn Variance</b>				0	0	0	0
<b>DSG Balance – show a deficit as a positive value</b>					0	0	0
				SURPLUS	SURPLUS	SURPLUS	SURPLUS

Key
User entry required

## Education, Health and Care Plans

	Number of CYP with Statements/ EHCs	Total HNB	Outturn	Cumulative
2016	1641	£26,307,780	£31,043,701	£4,735,921
2017	1727	£28,393,038	£32,207,188	£8,550,071
2018	1808	£30,123,995	£32,601,745	£11,027,821
2019	1880	£29,998,040	£29,998,040	£11,027,821
2020	1941	£29,382,040	£29,382,040	£11,027,821
2021	1991	£29,382,040	£29,382,040	£11,027,821

	2016	% against total	2017	% against total	2018	% against total	2019	% against total	2020	% against total	2021	% against total
Under Age 5	124	8%	122	7%	123	7%	123	7%	122	6%	126	6%
Aged 5-10	581	35%	598	35%	612	34%	618	33%	625	32%	627	31%
Aged 11-15	573	35%	581	34%	595	33%	611	33%	631	33%	647	32%
Aged 16-19	326	20%	365	21%	372	21%	367	20%	365	19%	372	19%
Aged 20-25	37	2%	61	4%	106	6%	161	9%	198	10%	219	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1641</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1727</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1808</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1880</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1941</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>100%</b>