

## **Higher Needs Financial Recovery Plan and Disapplication**

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At the last meeting, Schools Forum agreed to vire 0.5% of the Dedicated Schools Grant from the Schools Block (2018/19) to address the pressure emerging within the Higher Needs Block. It had been the intention of the local authority to seek a disapplication of the cap on the virement to deal with the remainder of the financial pressure for 17/18 of circa £780k. It was also apparent that Schools Forum members and beyond that the wider family of schools were not in support of that position.

Having had the opportunity to reflect on the position of schools and the requirement to have a financial recovery plan in place in support of any application it is proposed to carry over the pressure into 2018/19 to allow for further discussion with schools. The local authority recognises the commitment and support of schools on this issue and would prefer to work collectively to develop a comprehensive plan to deal with the underlying causes of the pressure in order to mitigate the impact on Dedicated Schools Grant. The views of Forum members are sought on this as a way forward.

**Andy Dempsey**  
**Director of Children's Services**