

SEND Reform Plan - Amendment to report

14. Like many upper-tier authorities, Oxfordshire County Council has experienced sustained overspends on the High Needs element of the Dedicated Schools Grant, driven in part by inflationary pressures. As at 31 March 2026, the High Needs deficit was £149.3m. After taking account of other DSG surplus balances of £14.0m, the DSG deficit recognised in the unusable reserve, and therefore eligible for Phase 1 of the High Needs Stability Grant, is £135.3m. If the SEND Reform submission is successful, the grant is expected to fund 90% of this balance, approximately £121.8m. By utilising the surplus balances, as is required by the High Needs Stability grant guidance, this would leave a residual deficit of £13.5m to be funded by Oxfordshire County Council.