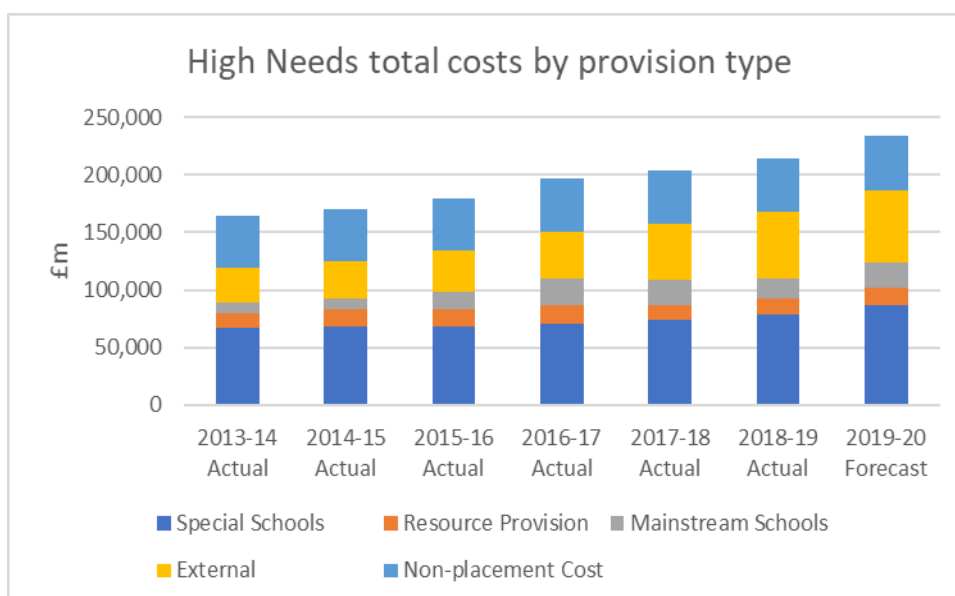


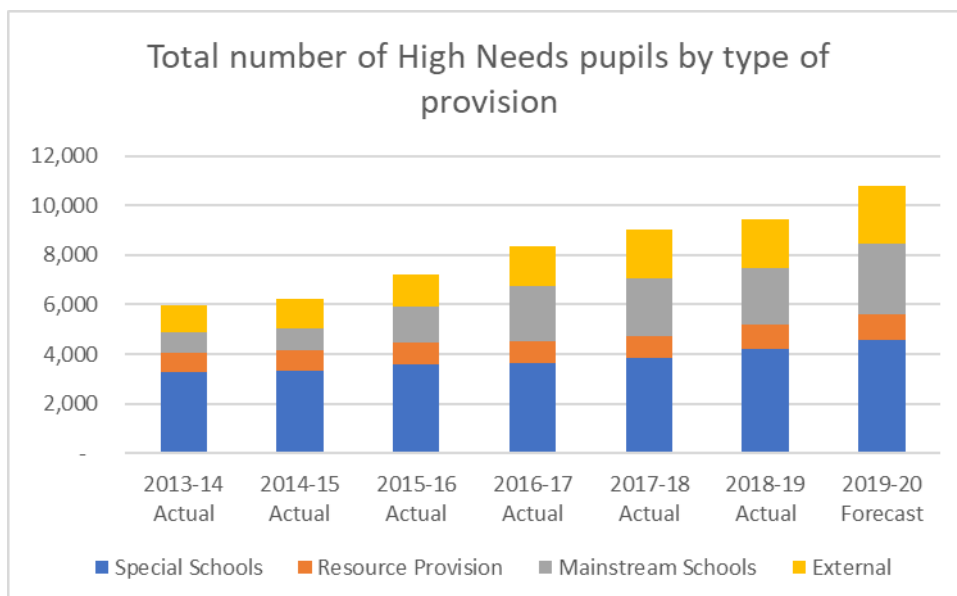
High Needs and Dedicated Schools Grant Key Indicators

1. High Need Placement Forecast

High Needs funding is part of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and is used to support the educational achievement of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The current estimated in-year funding shortfall for High Needs is +£18m due to a combination of both higher demand and higher cost per child. There are a growing number of children and young people accessing High Needs funding and this rise has been most significant in those children being educated in special schools (both maintained and independent) rather than mainstream schools. These specialist types of provisions are normally more expensive, as these placements tend to be for those children and young people with the most profound and complex needs. The forecast for 2019-20 is based on placements made to date along with an estimate of future demand to the end of the year based on previous trends. The graphs and tables below show total spend and pupil numbers for High Needs by type of provider.



External includes all external education providers including independent non-maintained and FE Colleges.



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2. Dedicated Schools Grant Reserve

The DSG is a ring-fenced grant from the Education and Skills Funding Agency used to support schools, early years, high needs and some central education services. The DSG central reserve is one of the Council's earmarked reserves, any under or overspend from DSG funded services are transferred to the reserve at year end. Individual maintained school balances (surplus and deficit) are held separately. In recent years, the High Needs Block funding received each year has been insufficient to cover the increasing cost of the services resulting in an increasing deficit on the DSG central reserve. The graph below shows the trend in the DSG central reserve. The Department of Education has recently confirmed that local authorities are not required to repay deficits on the DSG from the General Fund but it remains unclear how such deficits will be treated other than a requirement to report a recovery plan. Current, DFE guidance has stipulated any authority holding an accumulated deficit of more than 1% of their total DSG income will be required to complete a deficit recovery plan (this financial limit is reflected on the graph below as a dotted line). Based on current projections Kent will be required to complete the plan in 2020 if the DFE criteria remains unchanged.

Central DSG Reserve Balance as at the end of the Financial Year

