1.0 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide the Committee with information on the financial results of the Royal Blind School, highlighting and explaining significant variances that have arisen in the period to 28 February 2017.

2.0 Results and Significant Variances

2.1 Royal Blind School is positive to budget by £66K. Income is below budget by £13K, staff costs are £75K below budget and overheads are on target overall.

- Income from education is below budget by £22K but above budget by £11K in residential fees. This represents the current make up of services we provide to our pupils. We have admitted a new pupil recently and have another pupil in the pipeline for 2017/18, but we are not forecasting any new pupil admissions in this financial year. We are currently forecasting a small shortfall in fee income by March 2017. Other income is below budget by £2K and we expect this to remain so by March.

- Staff costs are below budget due to vacancies that have occurred from time to time. Pension payments are below budget because some of the residential care staff in the Defined Benefit Pension Scheme have moved to Forward Vision and Allermuir.

- Property costs are underspent by £13K and this is in cleaning services. We have stopped using cleaning services at the school and our own cleaners now provide the cleaning, with a security company ensuring that the building is locked at night. We have not needed to employ any additional cleaners as a result of this.

- Beneficiary costs are overspent by £8K, this is in NHS therapist supply £19K, therapist equipment £5K and maintenance of equipment £7K, partly offset by underspends in catering, curriculum materials and medical supplies. Therapist equipment is overspent due to equipment bought in this financial year that was fully fundraised for in the last financial year. Equipment maintenance is overspent due to a number of repairs that have been necessary.

- Administration costs are overspent by £16K and this is in ICT services (£10K) and small items of equipment (£6K).
- Depreciation is underspent by £14K. This is due to new capital works being delayed until later in the year.

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March 2017