

Directorate of Children's Services

Budget Fact Sheet

No. 2 – November 2012

- **School Funding Reform –Local Funding formula for Dudley schools 2013/14**

Consultation on the proposed local funding formula for Dudley schools ended on 5th Oct 2012. Outcomes were reported to Headteachers Budget Working Group (HTCF-BWG) and Schools Forum who made their recommendations to the Director of Children's Services at a meeting on 16th October 2012.

The Director of Children's Services has now made final decisions in respect of the local funding formula to be implemented from April 2013 and confirmed these in a letter dated 31st October 2012 which has been issued to all headteachers and governors.

The required pro forma has subsequently been submitted to the DfE and is currently awaiting scrutiny by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) and confirmation of suitability to use for 2013/14 school funding.

- **School Funding Reforms – De-delegations**

Consultation on additional de-delegations also closed on 5th October 2012 and outcomes were again reported to HTCF-BWG and Schools Forum. Schools Forum is responsible for decision making regarding de-delegation and these decisions were made at a meeting on 16th October 2012. The Director of Children's Services notified all headteachers and governors of School Forum decisions in respect of de-delegations from April 2013 by letter which was issued on 31st October 2012. Further discussions will be held at BWG in respect of the operational and reporting requirements of the de-delegated services. Academy Schools will be contacted shortly in respect of the buy back arrangements in respect of de-delegated services which include:

- Trade Union Facilities in schools
- Newly Qualified Teachers
- Behavioural Support Services – LACES
- EMAS service – Family Support

A summary of consultation responses is available as follows;

[Inside dudley / Directorates / Children's Services / Under useful links select CS Electronic Library / Children's Services Accountancy Team / Funding Reforms / Consultation Outcomes](#)

- **Funding for High Needs Pupils**

Work is still ongoing in respect of funding for High Needs pupils, however Dudley has now established a draft banded framework which seeks to identify a continuum of funding for pre 16 SEN. Further work is required in relation to the equivalence of funding compared with other local authorities and the post 16 element will need further discussions when data is made available by the EFA.

Special School Budgets

Special schools will be funded from the high needs block at £10,000 per place in addition to top up funding per pupil based on an individual assessment of need for each pupil. The seven special schools budgets for 2012/13 have been aligned to the new funding framework applicable for 2013/14 in order that potential funding issues can be identified at an early stage. This work will be ongoing until the Spring 2013 term.

- **School Budgets for 2013/14 and 2014/15**

It is a statutory requirement that school budgets are issued by 15th March, and budgets for Early Years Funding are issued by 31st March annually. It is anticipated that pupil datasets will be issued by the DfE during mid December and that the value of Dedicated Schools Grant will be confirmed sometime during December 2012.

Following the publication of school budgets for 2013/14 indicative school budgets for 2014/15 will be prepared based on estimated pupil data and will be available during May 2013.

As 2015/16 falls within the next government spending review period and it is government's intention to progress further towards implementation of a National Funding Formula then further changes to Dudley's local funding formula are expected from 2015/16. As and when government spending decisions are confirmed work will continue to produce indicative school budgets for future periods in order to assist schools with financial planning.

- **SEN Units in Mainstream Schools**

Dudley commissions 135 SEN places in mainstream schools. The DfE proposed regulations from 2013 will amend the funding which can be allocated for each pupil via the delegated budget and from 2013/14, the funding must be available from the High Needs Block, therefore a funding review is underway. Given the extent of the change programme for schools in 2013/14, it is proposed that this review is undertaken during 2013/14 for implementation in 2014/15 therefore SEN unit budgets will remain on a centrally commissioned basis for 2013/14.

- **Pupil Referral Units (PRUs)**

All PRUs will have delegated budgets from 1st April 2013 in addition to changes in their governance arrangements. PRUs will be funded from the high needs block at £8,000 per place in addition to top up funding per pupil based on an individual assessment of need for each pupil.

- **Pupil Premium**

The Government has confirmed that for 2013/14 the Pupil Premium will be set at £900 per pupil for every child registered as eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) at any point in the last six years. Further detail in respect of the Service Children Premium for 2013/14 is yet to be confirmed by the DfE.

Indicative allocations will be available to schools during the Spring term 2013 when school funding budgets for 2013/14 will also be issued.

- **Summer Schools**

The Government will be making £50 million available for the Summer Schools scheme to run again next year, providing up to two weeks of support for disadvantaged children. Details of how secondary schools can sign up to run summer schools in 2013 will be announced shortly by the DfE.

Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) for Two Year olds

Local Authorities (LAs) will be required to fund providers of free early education for less advantaged two year olds through an Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) from September 2013. Two year old places will be delivered by the private and voluntary childcare sector in close partnership with the network of children's centres across Dudley localities.

A full consultation in respect of the proposed EYSFF for Dudley will be published on 26th November 2012 and will close on 18th January 2013. Outcomes from the consultation will be reported to HTCF-BWG on 6th February 2013 and to Schools Forum on 12th February 2013. A final decision will be made by the Director of Children's Services on or before 31st March 2013, which is the deadline for issuing budgets to nursery education providers.

- **Schools Forum**

Future meetings are as follows; 13th November 2012, 11th December 2012, 22nd January 2013, 12th February 2013 and 19th March 2013.

With effect from October 2012 School Forum agendas and minutes of the meetings are available on the Council website together with details of Forum members as follows;

dudley.gov.uk / meetings and decisions / Committee Management Information System / Committees / Current Committees / Dudley Schools Forum / Meetings tab (minutes are available within the relevant meeting date).

- **Further Details**

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