

Schools Forum 9 May 2006

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Social Deprivation Statement

Purpose of Report

1. To present to Schools Forum a copy of the social deprivation statement; this has now been submitted to the Secretary of State.

Budget Working Group Discussed

2. Yes - 26 April 2006

Schools Forum Action

3. To receive the social deprivation statement which will be issued after 5 May 2006.

Attachments to Report

4. None – to be circulated after 5 May 2006.

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Social Deprivation Statement

Purpose of Report

1. To present to Schools Forum a copy of the social deprivation statement; this has now been submitted to the Secretary of State.

Background

2. At the February 2006 Schools Forum meeting (agenda item 6), members were advised that Dudley were required to supply the Secretary of State by 5 May 2006, a statement setting out the authority's policy and practice in respect of its school funding formula for 2006/07 in relation to social deprivation.
3. The Assistant Director of Resources and Planning (now Infrastructure) has prepared the statement in accordance with HTCF – Budget Working Group and the Finance Manager.
4. The statement will be circulated to Forum members after 5 May.
5. The DfES intend to collate and publish in June 2006 the statements received alongside relevant data on the attainment of pupils in each authority.
6. The DfES is also commissioning a technical review of deprivation indicators. This is intended to assist authorities and others in considering changes to their formulae, by making a systematic and comprehensive assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of various approaches to measuring deprivation for the purposes of allocating school funding. The report will also be issued in late Spring 2006.

Finance

7. The funding of schools is prescribed by the DfES through the School Finance (England) Regulations 2006.
8. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget will be funded by a direct DfES grant: Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

Law

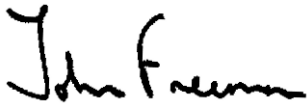
9. Councils' LMS Schemes are made under Section 48 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The Education Acts 1996 and 2002 also have provisions relating to school funding.

Equality Impact

10. The Council's Equal Opportunities Policy is taken into account when considering the allocation of resources.

Recommendation

11. It is recommended that Schools Forum note the Statement of Deprivation returned to the Secretary of State in respect of Dudley.



John Freeman

Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer:

Karen Cocker, Education Finance Manager

Karen.cocker@dudley.gov.uk Tel: 01384 815382