

Schools Forum 24 October 2013

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Local Authority Funding Reform Pro-Forma

Purpose of Report

1. To update Schools Forum members on Dudley's submission of the Local Authority Funding Reform Pro-forma for 2014/15 to the Education Funding Agency (EFA).

Discussed at HTCF – BWG

2. Yes – 16 October 2013.

Schools Forum Role and Responsibilities

3. From 1 April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct DfE grant: Dedicated School Grant (DSG).
4. The Forum is the 'guardian' of the local Schools Budget, and its distribution among schools and other bodies, and therefore must be closely involved throughout the development process.
5. A local authority must consult their Schools Forum and schools maintained by them about any proposed changes to the formulae in relation to the factors and criteria taken into account and the methods, principles and rules adopted

Actions for Schools Forum

6. To note the submission of Dudley's Local Authority Funding Reform Pro-forma for the 2014/15 financial year to the EFA, by the statutory deadline of 31 October 2013.

Attachments to Report

7. Appendix A – Example of Pro-forma, with the final submission to be tabled at the meeting.

Sue Coates
Senior Principal Accountant
11 October 2013

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Purpose of Report

1. To update Schools Forum members on Dudley's submission of the Local Authority Funding Reform Pro-forma for 2014/15 to the Education Funding Agency (EFA).

Background

2. Under the School Funding Reforms introduced for 2013/14, the local authority is required to submit a pro-forma containing detail of funding proposals for mainstream schools to the EFA by 31 October each year. The purpose of this is to enable the EFA to check the proposed funding model for compliance with the school funding regulations in preparation for the forthcoming financial year.
3. Dudley's pro-forma for the 2014/15 financial year will be issued to the EFA by the statutory deadline of 31 October 2013 and any responses arising from the compliance checks completed by the EFA will be reported to a future meeting of Schools Forum.
4. At this stage the data contained within the pro-forma is based on the School Census at October 2012. The EFA will re-issue datasets during mid-December based on October 2013 School Census. This will enable final school budget allocations for 2014/15 to be calculated for Dudley and the final pro-forma completed for submission to the EFA by 21 January 2014.
5. Appendix A outlines a blank EFA pro-forma; the completed pro-forma will be tabled at Schools Forum on the 24 October. Dudley's consultation on proposed changes to the local funding formula closed on 11 October and therefore the outcomes arising from the consultation are too late to complete the pro-forma in readiness for this report.

Finance

6. The funding of schools is prescribed by the Department for Education (DfE) through the School Finance and Early Years (England) Regulations 2012.
7. Schools Forums are regulated by the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012.
8. From 1 April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct grant: Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

Law

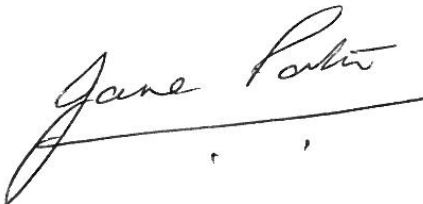
9. Councils' LMS Schemes are made under Section 48 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The Education Acts 1996 and 2002 also have provisions relating to school funding.

Equality Impact

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

Recommendation

11. To note the submission of Dudley's Local Authority Funding Reform Pro-forma to the EFA by the statutory deadline of 31 October 2013; a copy will tabled at the meeting on the 24 October.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Jane Porter', written over a horizontal line.

Jane Porter
Director of Children's Services

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