

Schools Forum 9 May 2006

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Consistent Financial Reporting – 2004/05 Data

Purpose of Report

1. To report to Schools Forum the benchmarking data available from the Audit Commissions Consistent Financial Reporting website in relation to Dudley schools financial transactions during 2004/05.

Budget Working Group Discussed

2. Yes - 26 April 2006

Schools Forum Action

3. To note distribution of benchmarking data for 2004/05 to Heads and Chairs.

Attachments

4. 3 booklets – Special/Secondary & Primary schools

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Purpose of Report

1. To report to Schools Forum the benchmarking data available from the Audit Commissions Consistent Financial Reporting website in relation to Dudley schools financial transactions during 2004/05.

Background

2. The Audit Commission website now holds data in relation to schools use of funds for the financial years 2002/03, 2003/04 and 2004/05. The website will be populated with 2005/06 outturn during the Autumn of 2006.
3. Data from this website has been extracted previously by LA officers and circulated to Dudley schools; schools can use this data for budget setting and other benchmarking exercises. Schools also have direct access to the website.
4. Whether schools access the site directly or they use the data circulated by the LA, this currently only identifies a particular school against a similar category of schools within Dudley; where the other schools are anonymous. The LA has access to the full database and can therefore identify all schools within a pre-defined range.
5. It was agreed at Schools Forum and HTCF – Budget Working Group last year that in future the circulation of CFR data to schools should identify all schools.
6. The confidential data for 2004/05 is attached at Appendix A for Schools Forum to note.
7. Copies will be circulated to the Headteacher and the Chair of Finance. Any wider circulation will be restricted to colleagues within the LA and issued on a confidential basis.

Finance

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

Law

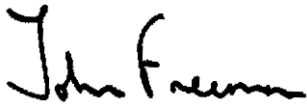
10. Councils' LMS Schemes are made under Section 48 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The Education Acts 1996 and 2002 also have provisions relating to school funding.

Equality Impact

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

Recommendation

12. It is recommended that Schools Forum note the CFR data in respect of 2004/05.



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Director of Children's Services

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