

**Schools Forum 24 February 2009**

**Report of the Director of Children's Services**

**14-19 Diploma Funding 2009/10**

**Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to update Schools Forum of the latest developments relating to the 14-19 Diplomas and seek approval to the funding framework for the 2009/10 academic year.

**Budget Working Group Discussed**

2. No.

**Action for Schools Forum**

3. To consider the recommendation from the 14-19 Partnership in relation to the funding framework for the 2009/10 academic year. The 14-19 Partnership are scheduled to meet on 11 February 2009; therefore the recommendations from this meeting will be presented orally at the Schools Forum meeting.

**Attachments to Report**

4. Schools Forum minutes from 18 March 2008 – Appendix A.
5. Student funding rates – Appendix B.
6. Diploma take-up timescales for Local Authorities – Appendix C.

Ian Curnow  
14-19 Partnership Manager  
9 February 2009

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**Purpose of Report**

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**Background**

2. Following a DCSF statement on 14- 19 Reforms in August 2007, Schools Forum were advised that "*ultimately decisions on school funding including Diplomas at Key Stage 4 will be made by local authorities after consulting the Schools Forum. From 08/09 14-19 partnerships will be separately represented on forums to ensure those decisions are consistent with area plans*".
3. In accordance with DCSF requirements, the membership of Schools Forum was widened in February 2008 to include a representative from the 14-19 Strategic Partnership.
4. The matter of funding for Diploma delivery in Key Stage 4 was reported to Schools Forum on 18 March 2008 for a decision to be made in relation to 2008/09 delivery. Full details of the minutes of the meeting are attached at Appendix A, the resolution from this meeting being:

**RESOLVED**

- That the Forum support option 2 of the diploma funding framework for the 2008/09 academic year only subject to the model not setting a precedent for future years.
- That the funding framework be reviewed by the 14 – 19 Strategic Partnership for 2009/10 and that a further recommendation on this issue be made to the Forum, when appropriate.
- That an update on 2008/09 progress and further funding guidance, be provided to the Forum in December 2008.

## **2009/10 Academic Year**

5. The 14-19 Strategic Partnership will consider on 11 February 2009 a proposal to continue the diploma funding methodology under option 2 for 2009/10 academic year.
6. For 2008/09 option 2 (partial delegation) was considered to be the best option since it was a compromise solution balancing certainty about budgets for schools with uncertainty about costs for schools.
7. The recommendation stemming from the February 2009 meeting of the Strategic Partnership will be presented orally to Schools Forum on the 24 February 2009 for a final decision on the funding methodology to be adopted for 2009/10.
8. The renewed guidance about the Diploma Grant was published by the DCSF on the 28 January 2009. This information being available in full at <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19> 14-19 Funding/Diploma Funding. Taken from this guidance the 2009/10 funding levels are detailed in Appendix B.
9. Four of the five Dudley consortia will be delivering Diplomas from September 2009. See Table 1 for details.

Table 1 – Diploma Delivery in Dudley 2009/10

<b>Consortium</b>	<b>Diploma Line/s</b>
Central Dudley	Hair & Beauty
North Dudley	Engineering
Halesowen	Creative & Media Society Health & Development Information Technology Hair & Beauty Studies Hospitality
Stourbridge	Construction & the Built Environment

10. In order to access this funding Consortia/Local Authorities (LAs) are required to submit information about Diploma take-up, this is attached at Appendix C.
11. DCSF will be publishing on 26 February 2009 the outcomes of research into approaches LAs/Consortia are using in 2008/09 for the management and distribution of the Diploma grant to assist LAs/Consortia with their financial planning for 2009/10 and beyond. At this early stage of development whilst up-take remains relatively small the funding mechanism used during 2008/09 retains the benefits previously identified.

## **Finance**

12. The funding of schools is prescribed by the DCSF through the School Finance (England) Regulations 2008.
13. Schools Forums are regulated by the School Forums Regulations 2002 as already amended by the Schools Forums (Amendment) Regulations 2004 the Schools Forums (Amendment) 2005 Regulations and the Schools Forums (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.
14. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct DCSF grant: Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

### **Law**

15. 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**

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

### **Recommendation**

17. Schools Forum to:
  - Support the continuation of the current diploma funding model option 2 framework for the 2009/10 academic year. The model sets no precedent for future years;
  - The funding framework to be reviewed by 14-19 Partnership for 2010/11 and a further recommendation to schools forum made when appropriate.



**Jane Porter**  
**Interim Director of Children's Services**

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**Extract From Schools Forum Minutes 18 March 2008**

**14 – 19 DIPLOMAS UPDATE**

A report of the Director of Children's Services was submitted to update the Forum on the latest developments relating to the 14 –19 Diplomas and seek approval to the funding framework for the 2008/09 academic year.

In submitting the report, Mr I Curnow, the 14–19 Partnership Manager (Directorate of Children's Services), referred to the three funding options set out in the report submitted and outlined the advantages and disadvantages of each option. The meeting was advised that Option 2 (partial delegation) was the best option since it was a compromise solution balancing certainty about budgets for schools with uncertainty about costs for schools. The funding framework for the delivery of the Diplomas, through local service providers, was outlined and the Forum informed that an initial allocation of £168,239 would be received based on 176 learner numbers predicted by the Halesowen Partnership. The Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) was expected to respond to the revised estimates of pupil numbers by the end of March 2008 to adjust or confirm the final funding allocation for each local authority.

The Forum noted DCSF guidance 18/207 defining the purpose and scope of the Diploma Formula grant to support additional costs, as set out in the report submitted, of delivering the Diplomas at KS4, for which costs could not be met from mainstream funding. It was also advised that since 2008/09 was the first academic year for the diploma delivery, the funding decision for 2008/09 should not set a precedent for future years and the funding framework for the 2009/10 academic year should be reviewed by the 14 – 19 Strategic Partnership.

Following further discussion on the benefits of adopting funding option 2 over the other two options, it was

**RESOLVED**

1. That the Forum support option 2 of the diploma funding framework for the 2008/09 academic year only subject to the model not setting a precedent for future years.
2. That the funding framework be reviewed by the 14 – 19 Strategic Partnership for 2009/10 and that a further recommendation on this issue be made to the Forum, when appropriate.
3. That an update on 2008/09 progress and further funding guidance, be provided to the Forum in December 2008.

## APPENDIX B

Details of the 2009/10 funding levels from the guidance at <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19>

For pupils who started their diplomas in 2008/09, DCSF will continue to use the same rates as we published in 2008/09, which are:

Diploma line	Level	Amount per place excluding ACA
Construction	Level 1	<b>£957.21</b>
	Level 2	<b>£1,277.95</b>
Creative and Media	Level 1	<b>£736.30</b>
	Level 2	<b>£957.21</b>
Engineering	Level 1	<b>£957.21</b>
	Level 2	<b>£1,277.95</b>
Society, Health & Development	Level 1	<b>£824.74</b>
	Level 2	<b>£1,101.07</b>
IT	Level 1	<b>£824.74</b>
	Level 2	<b>£1,101.07</b>

For those students starting a diploma in 2009/10, DCSF will be using the following rates:

Diploma line	Level	Amount per place excluding ACA
Construction	Level 1	<b>£957.19</b>
	Level 2	<b>£1,289.03</b>
Creative and Media	Level 1	<b>£957.19</b>
	Level 2	<b>£1,289.03</b>
Engineering	Level 1	<b>£957.19</b>
	Level 2	<b>£1,289.03</b>
Society, Health & Development	Level 1	<b>£824.66</b>
	Level 2	<b>£1,110.55</b>
IT	Level 1	<b>£824.66</b>
	Level 2	<b>£1,289.03</b>
Business Administration & Finance	Level 1	<b>£736.30</b>
	Level 2	<b>£991.56</b>
Hair & Beauty Studies	Level 1	<b>£957.19</b>
	Level 2	<b>£1,289.03</b>
Hospitality	Level 1	<b>£957.19</b>
	Level 2	<b>£1,289.03</b>
Land-Based & Environmental Studies	Level 1	<b>£1,178.08</b>
	Level 2	<b>£1,586.50</b>
Manufacturing & Product Design	Level 1	<b>£957.19</b>
	Level 2	<b>£1,289.03</b>

**Diploma Take up Timescales for Local Authorities**

**Details of the 2009/10 funding levels from the guidance at**  
**<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19>**

By 31 January 2009	DCSF informs LAs/Consortia of formula for 09/10 and indicative levels of funding per pupil for planning purposes;  DCSF requests information on “best estimate” of take-up by LA/line/level, to be received by 6 March 2009.
6 March 2009	Deadline for “best estimate” returns from LAs/Consortia.
20 March 2009	DCSF issues <u>provisional</u> allocations to LAs on basis of March returns;  DCSF requests “firm estimates” on take-up, on which final allocations will be calculated, to be received by 10 July 2009.
10 July 2009	Deadline for “firm estimate” returns from LAs/Consortia.
23 July 2009	DCSF confirms <u>final</u> allocations to LAs.  Request to Consortia for data on actual starts to be received by 9 October (provisional date, to be confirmed).
4 September 2009	First payments to LAs of 09/10 grant
9 October 2009 (provisional date, to be confirmed)	Deadline for LA/Consortia returns on actual starts (including from Consortia breakdown by gender and other requirements).
5 March 2010	Second payments to LAs of 09/10 grant