

Schools Forum – 20th May 2008

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Allocation of the Schools Budget - 2008/09 Financial Year

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Schools Forum with summary financial data in respect of the Schools Budget allocation for the 2008/09 financial year.

Budget Working Group Discussed

2. No.

Action for Schools Forum

3. To note the planned allocation of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funds in respect of the Schools Budget for the 2008/09 financial year.

Attachments to Report

4. Appendix A – extract from Table 1 Section 52 Budget Statement 2008/09
5. Appendix B – Schools Individual Budgets 2008/09

Sue Coates
Senior Principal Accountant
6 May 2008

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Background

2. The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funds the Schools Budget. The Schools Budget is a combination of centrally retained budgets together with the ISB (Individual Schools Budget).
3. The provisional DSG for the 2008/09 financial year is £188.356m; this is subject to confirmation from the DCSF which we expect to receive in June 2008.
4. The Section 52 Budget Statement is a statutory document which is required to be submitted to the DCSF by 31st March.
5. A copy of the Section 52 budget statement is available on the Dudley MBC web-site (<http://www.dudley.gov.uk/council--democracy/council-directorates/childrens-services/financialdocuments>), a copy will be issued to all Heads and Chairs of Governors in addition to copies being available in each of Dudley's Libraries.
6. The Section 52 Budget Statement includes:
 - Schools Budget Summary Table
 - Table 1 – LA level information
 - Annexes to Table 1-
 - i. Central Expenditure Limits (CEL)
 - ii. Early Years
 - iii. Youth Service
 - Table 2 – School level information (summary)
 - Table 3a & 3b School level information (summary)
 - Table 4 – Funding Factors
7. The Schools Budget Summary table provides an account of the main sources of funding to LA's to support their Schools Budget.
8. Table 1 of the Section 52 budget statement provides information regarding both the allocation of the Schools Budget and the LA budget. The data is classified under

standard categories to aid comparison. An extract from Table 1 for 2008/09 is attached at Appendix A. The Schools Budget element forms the basis of the budget monitoring data presented to Schools Forum.

9. The Central Expenditure Limit table shows whether the LA has met the DCSF targets in respect of central expenditure within the Schools Budget.
10. The Early Years table is new for 2008/09 and shows detail of Early Years expenditure on funding the free entitlement, which includes both Maintained and Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) provision. Information is also included showing the number of children accessing the free entitlement to nursery education at January 2008.
11. The Youth Service table provides supplementary details in respect of the service.
12. Tables 2, 3a, 3b and 4 show details of schools' delegated budgets and the basis of allocation. This data is compiled from the detailed formula funding allocation exercise carried out by the Local Authority and provides schools with a more meaningful analysis of their budget calculation. Appendix B details the schools delegated budget allocations for 2008/09 together with supplementary information relating to:
 - % increase from 2007/08 to 2008/09
 - Pupil number changes from 2007/08 to 2008/09
 - Value of funding per pupil for 2007/08 and 2008/09
13. The Schools Budget monitoring data is discussed in detail on a monthly basis with the Director of Children's Services and relevant budget holders.
14. Schools Forum will be provided with 2008/09 budget monitoring data in respect of the Schools Budget at the next meeting in July.

Finance

15. The funding of schools is prescribed by the DCSF through the School Finance (England) Regulations 2008.
16. 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.
17. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget will be funded by a direct DCSF grant: Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

Law

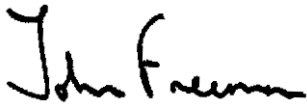
18. Councils' LMS Schemes are made under Section 48 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The Education Acts 1996 and 2002 also have provisions relating to school funding.

Equality Impact

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

Recommendation

20. Schools Forum to note both the 2008/09 Schools Budget data for the financial year to 31 March 2009 extracted from the Section 52 budget statement, and the summary of Individual Schools' delegated funding as attached at Appendices A and B.



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Director of Children's Services

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