

Schools Forum 7 October 2008

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Proposed Allocation of 2008/09 School Development Grant (SDG) - Headroom

Purpose of Report

1. To recommend the distribution of headroom from the Schools Development Grant (SDG). It is a DCSF requirement that any grant remaining from the SDG should be allocated to schools on a fair and transparent basis, after consultation with Schools Forum.

Budget Working Group (BWG) Discussed

2. No.

Schools Forum Action

3. To agree the allocation of the remaining SDG on a fair and transparent per pupil basis.

Attachments to Report

4. Appendix A – Proposed SDG allocation per school 2008/09.

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Background

2. Indicative Standards Fund Allocations are distributed to schools prior to the start of the financial year. The DCSF instruct local authorities to calculate the 2008/09 indicative SDG allocation by increasing the 2007-08 SDG allocation by 2.1% per pupil. This forms the basis of the DCSF guaranteed funding level for 2008/09.
3. The DCSF advise local authorities of their final overall SDG allocations once they have validated the January Schools Census data in the summer term. As the final 2008/09 allocation from the DCSF is calculated on the January 2008 total pupil data and this differs to the initial indicative school level detailed data, this generates budget headroom in the SDG. The standards fund guidance states that any headroom in SDG is distributed on a fair and transparent basis with Schools Forum approval.
4. The headroom generated for 2008/09 is £30,576. Appendix A details the proposed distribution of the SDG headroom based on a per pupil allocation using the January 2008 Schools Census pupil numbers; the headroom available for distribution is equal to 0.65p per pupil.

Finance

5. The funding of schools is prescribed by the DCSF through the School Finance (England) Regulations 2008.
6. 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.

7. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct DCSF grant: Dedicated School Grant (DSG). The ISB (Individual Schools Budget which covers the delegated budgets to schools) is a part of the Schools Budget.

Law

8. 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

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

Recommendations

10. Schools Forum approve the distribution of the 2008/09 Schools Development Grant (SDG) headroom on a per pupil basis at 0.65p per pupil, using the January 2008 Schools Census pupil data. Details in Appendix A.



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