

**Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council**

**Schools Forum**

**7 February 2006**

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

**Standards Fund Allocation 2006/07 & 2007/08**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To advise Schools Forum of the:
  - a. Standards Fund allocations for 2006/07 and 2007/08;
  - b. Process for managing specific grants within the fund.

**Standards Fund Allocations**

2. The Standards Fund allocations in respect of the Schools Budget activities for 2006/07 and 2007/08 are shown in Appendix A. These allocations are now funded 100% by a DfES grant. The Local Authority matched funding has been transferred to the DfES as part of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) arrangements, which are effective from April 2006.
3. The Standards Fund allocations in respect of the non Schools Budget activities for 2006/07 and 2007/08 are shown in Appendix B. The funding arrangements for these activities have not changed and these allocations are funded by the DfES at different intervention rates; varying from 50% to 100%.
4. Where grants continue to require matched funding, local authorities are asked to confirm their take-up of allocations for 2006-2007 by 24 February 2006.
5. The individual allocations to schools will be notified in February 2006, when the indicative budgets are circulated to schools.
6. Schools Forum should note that grant area 31a, ICT Infrastructure and Hands On Support, has been split between revenue and capital funded activities for 2006/07. £788k is accounted for as area 101 within the revenue standards fund grant for 2006/07 (Appendix A) with £1.4m being transferred into the devolved formula capital grant from 2006/07. The £1.4m is reflected in the increased lump sum allocation within the devolved formula capital grant.

7. The DfES Standards Fund circular for 2006-08 is available at [www.teachernet.gov.uk/specificgrants200608](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/specificgrants200608). The Introduction (Section 1) and the General Arrangements and Action Required (Section 2) are attached at Appendix C for reference.

### **Management of the Standards Fund**

8. The attached Standards Fund Matrix, shown in Appendix A and B, identifies the Division and named officer responsible for the coordination of each grant. Information regarding delegation criteria etc is included where available and relevant. It is intended that each grant will have a named forum responsible for authorising any decisions regarding the allocation of that grant area. The matrix data is still in draft form but will identify:
- a. A basis for allocation (to be agreed with the Budget Holder);
  - b. A forum for authorisation;
  - c. A proposed signatory for devolution in 2006/07 (to be identified by the Directorate;
  - d. The process will be coordinated by the Assistant Director (School Effectiveness Division) and be regularly monitored, and reviewed annually by the Directorate Policy Team (DPT).

### **Proposals**

9. It is proposed that Schools Forum note the contents of the report in respect of the Standards Fund allocations for 2006 -2008.

### **Finance**

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

### **Law**

12. 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.

### **Equal Opportunities**

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

### **Recommendation**

14. That Schools Forum note the contents of this report and advise the Director of Children's Services in respect of the Standards Fund allocations for 2006- 2008 as detailed in the proposals.



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