

Schools Forum 8 December 2009

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Dedicated Schools Grant Reserve Statement for 2008/09

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Schools Forum with an update on the spending plans in respect of the Dedicated Schools Grant reserve for the 2008/09 financial year ended 31 March 2009.

Budget Working Group Discussed

2. Yes.

Action for Schools Forum

3. To note the Directorate projected spending plans in respect of the dedicated schools grant reserve from 2008/09 of £1.587m.

Attachments to Report

4. None.

Karen Cocker
Children's Services Finance Manager
18 November 2009

Schools Forum 8 December 2009

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

Dedicated Schools Grant Reserve Statement for 2008/09

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Schools Forum with an update on the spending plans in respect of the Dedicated Schools Grant reserve for the 2008/09 financial year ended 31 March 2009.

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 DSG is a ring fenced grant and can only be applied to meet expenditure properly included in the Schools Budget, as defined by the School Finance (England) Regulations 2008.
4. For the 2008/09 financial year the DSG was £188.303m. The year-end position recorded the DSG net expenditure at £186.716m. Thus the DSG roll-forward was £1.587m.
5. For the purposes of declaring the DSG outturn, the amount of ISB actually distributed to schools is regarded, for DSG purposes, as spent by the authority once it is deployed to schools' budget shares. Thus whilst the ISB element of the DSG can be under-spent this is recorded as schools roll-forwards and is in addition to the £1.587m detailed in paragraph 4.

Central DSG Expenditure

6. If an authority's actual spend on central expenditure is less than its central expenditure budget, the under-spend must be carried forward to support the Schools Budget in future years. For 2008/09 the DSG roll-forward attributable to the centrally retained budgets is £1.587m
7. The DSG roll-forward of £1.587m will be allocated by the Director of Children's Services to cover the following strategies:

<u>Area of Expenditure</u>	<u>Budget Allocation</u> <u>£000's</u>	<u>Details</u>
Equal Pay for Closed Schools	338	Reserve for the estimated outcomes of equal pay costs for staff affected by Dudley Schools Reorganisation
Support to schools with large capital building projects	120	To augment the leadership and management capacity in schools where major building works have been approved
DGfL 3	250	Procurement development for DGfL to be in contract by January 2011
Cradley High School	300-600	Demolition costs and site reclaim
E admissions EMS Software	100	To replace the existing software which is no longer supported by the provider
Offsite visits 2009/10	10	One off staffing costs to ensure continuity of service provision during 2009/10 due to staff changes
Total	£1,118- 1,418	

Finance

8. The funding of schools is prescribed by the DCSF through the School Finance (England) Regulations 2008.
9. 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.
10. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct DCSF grant: Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

Law

11. 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

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

Recommendation

13. Schools Forum is invited to note the Directorate projected spending plans in respect of the 2008/09 Dedicated Schools Grant reserve, as detailed in paragraph 7.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Wyatt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'M' and 'W'.

Mark Wyatt

Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Karen Cocker, Children's Services Finance Manager
Karen.cocker@dudley.gov.uk Tel: 01384 815382