

Schools Forum 17th September 2013

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Final Allocations of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2013/14 Financial Year

Purpose of Report

1. To advise Schools Forum of the Department for Education correspondence to local authorities dated 23 July 2013 regarding the final allocation of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the 2013/14 financial year.

Budget Working Group Discussed

2. No.

Schools Forum Role and Responsibilities

3. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct Department for Education (DfE) grant: the Dedicated School Grant (DSG).
4. Schools Forum is the 'guardian' of the local Schools Budget, and its distribution among schools and other bodies, and therefore must be closely involved throughout the development process.
5. It is a Department for Education (DfE) requirement that the final budgeted allocation of the Dedicated School Grant (DSG) is discussed with Schools Forum. The discussion should take place following notification of final Dedicated School Grant (DSG) allocation which was confirmed by the (DfE) on 23 July 2013.

Action for Schools Forum

6. For Forum to note the 2013/14 financial year final DSG allocation, which is a DfE requirement.

Attachments to Report

7. None.

Laura Jones-Moore
Principal Accountant
3 September 2013

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Purpose of Report

1. To advise Schools Forum of the Department for Education correspondence to local authorities dated 23 July 2013 regarding the final allocation of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the 2013/14 financial year.

Background

2. The DSG funds the Schools Budget. The Schools Budget is a combination of centrally retained budgets covering early years and special educational needs together with the ISB (Individual Schools Budget).
3. The DfE has now confirmed the 2013/14 DSG allocation for Dudley at £234.323m. This compares to an estimate of £234.301m, which generates a DSG positive variance of £22k. This variance relates to the January 2013 Early Years Census data and indicates a small increase in nursery pupils (6 FTE), which are funded at £3,650 per FTE. The additional DSG of £22,000 will be added to the small early years contingency budget of £0.081m.
4. For the purposes of calculating the DSG the pupil numbers include Academy Schools in the Borough as it is the Local Authority's responsibility, in the first instance, to calculate the Academy School's budget share by replicating the Dudley local formula funding allocation. This data is then submitted to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) who is responsible for the academy budgets.
5. Therefore as the DSG of £234.323m relates to the total allocation in respect of Dudley and this is prior to the funding recoupment for Dudley's converter academies, there will be a deduction of £27.490m in respect of Windsor High, Holly Hall, High Arcal, Earls, Kingswinford and Bramford Academy Schools. The final amount to be deducted from Dudley's 2013/14 DSG will increase as future maintained schools convert to Academy status in due course; these include Redhill, Bishop Milner, St Chads, St Marys RC and St Josephs.

Finance

6. The funding of schools is prescribed by the Department for Education (DfE) through the Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2012.
7. Schools Forums are currently regulated by the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012.
8. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct grant: Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

Law

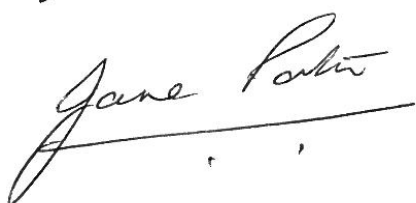
9. Councils' LMS Schemes are made under Section 48 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The Education Acts 1996 and 2002 also have provisions relating to school funding.

Equality Impact

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

Recommendation

11. Schools Forum to note that the final Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation for 2013/14 is £234.323m, which is £0.022m higher than the March 2013 estimate. The additional funds of £0.022m will be added to the Early Years contingency to increase this budget available to £102,702.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Jane Porter', written over a horizontal line.

Jane Porter
Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer:

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