

Schools Forum 12 December 2006

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Special Schools Formula Review

Purpose of Report

1. To advise Schools Forum of the latest position relating to the special schools formula funding review.

Budget Working Group Discussed

2. Yes – ongoing discussion.

Schools Forum Action

3. To note the publication of the consultation document 'Special School Budgets 2007/08 –New Delegations and Proposed Changes in the Resource Allocation Formula for Special Schools'.

Attachments to Report

4. Special School Budgets 2007/08 –New Delegations and Proposed Changes in the Resource Allocation Formula for Special Schools' – final draft Consultation document.

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Purpose of Report

1. To advise Schools Forum of the latest position relating to the special schools formula funding review, for implementation in 2007/8.

Background

2. The special schools formula funding review has been discussed at several Schools Forum meetings since July 2005. During that period officers of the LA and the seven special Headteachers have been reviewing and revising the formula for distributing funds to Dudley special schools.
3. It is proposed that the special schools formula is amended from 2007/08 financial year in line with the consultation document attached at Appendix A; this is a final draft waiting for formatting before issue.
4. It is requirement that all Headteachers and Governing Bodies are consulted in the preceding financial year on any proposed variations to the formula.
5. The consultation period will be from late November 2006 to 17 January 2007. A final report will be brought to the Schools Forum meeting on 6 February 2007 advising members of the outcomes and the Director of Children's Services recommendations.

Finance

6. The funding of schools is prescribed by the DfES through the School Finance (England) Regulations 2006.
7. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget is funded by a direct DfES grant: Dedicated School Grant (DSG).
8. The ISB (Individual Schools Budget which covers the delegated budgets to schools) is a part of the of Schools Budget, which is funded by the 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.

Recommendations

11. Schools Forum:

- Note the report in respect of the special schools formula review;
- Note that any responses can be made through the formal consultation process outlined in the document.



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