

**Schools Forum 9 December 2008**

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

**Schools Forum Training Programme**

**Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to update Schools Forum on a proposed training programme for Forum members.

**Budget Working Group Discussed**

2. No.

**Action for Schools Forum**

3. To advise on the proposed programme of training for Schools Forum Members.

**Attachments to Report**

4. None.

Karen Cocker  
Children's Services Finance Manager  
24 November 2008

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**Schools Forum Training Programme**

**Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Schools Forum on a proposed training programme for Forum members.

**Background**

2. There is no national training available for Schools Forum members despite the Schools Budget being the largest single area of revenue expenditure for the Council and the Forum having access to a budget.
3. At the Forum meeting on 8 July 2008 Forum members agreed that a training programme was required and that further proposals should be presented to the Forum at a later date.
4. The report details a proposed training programme for School Forum Members.
5. It is proposed that Schools Forum training is separated into two areas being 'ad hoc' and 'routine' training.
6. The routine training, such as 'the role and powers of schools forum' and the 'funding of local authorities' would be offered on an annual basis by Dudley Financial Services in the summer and early autumn after new members have been appointed. The training would be held over two or three evenings at Saltwells Education Centre or a similar venue.
7. The ad hoc training proposed is scheduled for a late Friday afternoon start continuing through to a Saturday lunchtime closure. The training programme would be facilitated with a guest speaker, such as a representative from the DCSF.
8. The ad hoc training is expected to be interactive and is likely to cover subject areas such as the evolving nature of schools forums together with a national interpretation of the changing context of school and local authority accountability. Further details will be provided to Forum to expand on the course content at a later stage.

9. The date of the training will be dependant upon the availability of guest speakers and venue facilities but two dates for consideration could be 16 &17 January or 6 & 7 February.

### **Finance**

10. The funding of schools is prescribed by the DCSF through the School Finance (England) Regulations 2008.
11. 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.
12. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct DCSF grant: Dedicated School Grant (DSG).
13. Schools Forum has a budget of £22,800 for 2008/09.

### **Law**

14. 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**

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

### **Recommendation**

16. Schools Forum to note the report and advise the Director of Children's Services in respect of the training programme proposed.



**John Freeman**

**Director of Children's Services**

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