

Schools Forum 7 October 2008

Report of the Director of Children's Services

LEA Benchmarking Tables 2008-09

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to advise Schools Forum of the Section 52 Benchmarking Tables recently issued by the DCSF in respect of planned expenditure for the 2008/09 financial year.

Budget Working Group Discussed

2. No.

Action for Schools Forum

3. To note the 2008/09 financial year S52 benchmarking data.

Attachments to Report

4. Appendix A – Per Pupil (Net) Table
5. Appendix B – Additional Information Table
6. Appendix C – Free Entitlement to Early Years Table

Stacey Carter
Children's Services Principal Accountancy Assistant
22 September 2008

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Background

2. Benchmarking tables are now issued annually by the DCSF based on data extracted from Section 52 budget statements as produced by Local Authorities.
3. For 2008/09 the benchmarking data includes all areas of children's services including children's social care.
4. Attached at Appendices A to C are the following tables:
 - Per Pupil (Net) Table
 - Additional Information Table
 - Free entitlement to Early Years' Table
5. Additional benchmarking tables are available on the DCSF website <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/localauthorities/section52/subPage.cfm?action=section52.default&ID=89> and comprise as follows:
 - Per Pupil (Gross) Table
 - Pupil Numbers File
 - Year on Year Table
 - Key Stage Ratio Table- local and national.

Finance

6. The funding of schools is prescribed by the DCSF through the School Finance (England) Regulations 2008.
7. 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.
8. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct DCSF 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 is invited to receive this report and note the contents.



John Freeman

Director of Children's Services

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