

Dudley Schools Forum

**Tuesday 21st October, 2014 at 6.00pm
at Saltwells Education Development Centre,
Bowling Green Road, Netherton, Dudley**

Agenda - Public Session (Meeting open to the public and press)

1. Introductions by the Chair
2. Apologies for absence.
3. To report the appointment of any substitutes for this meeting of the Forum.
4. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 23rd September, 2014 (attached).
5. Any other matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 23rd September, 2014 not included on the agenda for this meeting.
6. The Pupil Premium – Dudley’s Data (Pages 1 - 30)
7. Feedback on the Consultation on Allocation from Dudley’s Dedicated Schools Grant Reserve for 2015/16 and 2016/17 (Pages 31 - 37)
8. Schools Revenue Funding Arrangements in 2015/16 – Growth Fund (Pages 38 - 42)
9. DfE Section 251 Planned Expenditure Benchmarking Data for 2014/15 (Pages 43 - 70)
10. Effective Schools Forums (Pages 71 - 81)



Distribution:**Members of Dudley Schools Forum**

Mr Bate; Mrs Belcher; Mr Conway; Mr Derham; Mrs Garratt; Mrs Hannaway; Mr B Jones; Mrs N Jones; Mr Kelleher; Mr Kirk; Mr Nesbitt; Mr Oakley; Mr Patterson; Mrs Quigley; Mr Ridley; Ms Rogers; Mrs Ruffles; Mr Shaw; Mr Ward; Mr Warren; Mrs Withers; Mrs Wylie

For Information:-

M Stowe and J King

Non-Voting Attendees

Councillor T Crumpton - Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services;
Councillor M Mottram - Chair of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee;
P Sharratt – Interim Director of Children's Services;
H Powell/T Brittain – Acting Assistant Director of Children's Services;
I McGuff – Assistant Director of Children's Services;
K Cocker – Children's Services Finance Manager, Directorate of Corporate Resources;
S Coates – Principal Accountant, Directorate of Corporate Resources.

Please note the following important information concerning meetings at Saltwells Education Development Centre:

- In the event of the alarms sounding, please leave the building by the nearest exit. There are Officers who will assist you in the event of this happening, please follow their instructions.
- There is no smoking on the premises in line with national legislation. It is an offence to smoke in or on these premises.
- The use of mobile devices or electronic facilities is permitted for the purposes of recording/reporting during the public session of the meeting. The use of any such devices must not disrupt the meeting – Please turn off any ringtones or set your devices to silent.
- If you (or anyone you know) is attending the meeting and requires assistance to access the venue and/or its facilities, please contact the contact officer below in advance and we will do our best to help you.
- Information about the Council and our meetings can be viewed on the website www.dudley.gov.uk
- The Democratic Services contact officer for this meeting is Helen Shepherd, Telephone 01384 815271 or E-mail helen.shepherd@dudley.gov.uk

MINUTES OF DUDLEY SCHOOLS FORUM

Tuesday, 23rd September, 2014 at 6.00 pm
at Saltwells Education Development Centre,
Bowling Green Road, Netherton, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Mr. Ridney - Chair

Mrs. Wylie - Vice Chair

Mr. K. Bate, Mr. J. Conway, Mr. C. Derham, Mrs. A. Garratt, Mrs. A. Hannaway, Mrs. N. Jones, Mr. M. Lynch, Mr. B. Oakley, Mr. B. Patterson, Mrs. J. Quigley, Ms. P. Rogers, Mrs. H. Ruffles, Mr. N. Shaw, Mr. D. Ward and Mrs. G. Withers

Person(s) not a member of the Forum but having an entitlement to attend meetings and speak

Councillor T. Crumpton (Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning) and Ms. P. Sharratt (Interim Director of Children's Services)

Officers

Mr. H. Powell (Acting Assistant Director of Children's Services - Education Services) (Directorate of Children's Services); Mrs. K. Cocker (Children's Services Finance Manager, Mrs. S. Coates (Senior Principal Accountant) and Mrs. K. Taylor (Democratic Services Officer), Directorate of Corporate Resources

16. Introductions by the Chair

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

17. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Mrs. J. Belcher, Mr. J. Kelleher, Mr P.Nesbitt and Mr. B. Warren.

18. Substitute Member

It was noted that Mr M Lynch was serving as substitute member for Mr P Nesbitt for this meeting of the Forum only.

19. Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Schools Forum held on 8th July, 2014, be approved as a correct record and signed.

20. Matters Arising from the Minutes

An update was requested in relation to Minute No. 15 – Provision of a Précis Version of Matters Considered at Forum Meetings, in responding the Children's Services Finance Manager confirmed that a note had been uploaded to the website within twenty-four hours of the meeting.

21. Schools with Licensed Deficit Arrangements

Arising from the consideration given at the last meeting of the Forum to Dudley's Schools' Delegated Reserves 2013/14, a report of the Interim Director of Children's Services was submitted on the latest financial monitoring arrangements in place for the Coseley School.

Arising from consideration of this item, it was noted that the Coseley School was not in the position to balance their 2014/15 delegated budget and was therefore advised to submit a licensed deficit application for £283,480, which was approved by the local authority. It was reported that the application would be repaid over a five year period, and the School had recently undertaken a staffing restructure in order to address the budget issues.

It was further reported that the Schools' position in regard of balancing the 2014/15 budget was on target.

Resolved

That the information contained in the report submitted on the Coseley School's approved licensed deficit application for 2014/15, be noted, and that further updates be provided to the Forum.

22. Fairer Schools Funding and Schools Revenue Funding Arrangements in 2015/16

A report of the Interim Director of Children's Services was submitted on the latest information published recently by the Department of Education in respect of Fairer Schools Funding and Revenue Funding Arrangements.

The Senior Principal Accountant presented the report submitted and in doing so reported that the budget for Fairer Schools Funding had increased from £350m to £390m, which would be made available to the least fairly funded local areas in England. Detailed calculation of the Minimum Funding Level for Dudley was set out in Appendix A of the report submitted.

The Senior Principal Accountant made particular reference to the 2015/16 Revenue Funding Arrangements, and the significant change to funding for two year olds in Dudley, which would now be based on participation, rather than an allocation from the Department of Education.

It was reported that the funding of places in Alternative Provision would increase from £8,000 to £10,000 per place from September, 2015, however it was confirmed that the DfE anticipated that there would be a corresponding reduction in top-up funding allocated by the local authority.

Reference was made to the possibility of creating a Growth Fund contingency, in particular, to address the pressure on primary school places. It was noted that a further report would be considered at the October meeting of the Forum.

Resolved

That the latest information published by the Department of Education in respect of Fairer Schools Funding and Revenue Funding Arrangements for 2015/16, be noted, and an updated position to include an amendment to the Constitution be reported to a future meeting of Schools Forum.

23. Budget Fact Sheet

The Senior Principal Accountant presented a budget fact sheet and highlighted the proposals in relation to a number of consultations, in particular, that the Schools Forum would be giving consideration to recommendations made following the consultation on De-delegations for 2015/16.

Consideration was given to the report submitted, and comments and questions were made as follows:

- In relation to quantifying pupil premiums, the Senior Principal Accountant stated that census data would be collected by the School and submitted to the Department of Education in order to calculate the allocation of funding. A number of concerns were raised in relation to the collection of the Free School Meals data by the School via an online application form, to be completed by parents, as there was no incentive to complete the form. It was also noted that no additional information had been included in the head count forms.
- In responding to questions raised by Members regarding sensitivity analysis of longer term funding for schools, the Schools Finance Manager reported that the local authority provides Dudley schools with multi year budget forecasts based on a number of planning assumptions and continues to work closely with both schools and the Interim Director of Children's Services in respect of the resulting data which is RAG rated for internal purposes.

Resolved

That the information contained in the budget fact sheet submitted be noted.

24. The Pupil Premium

A report of the Interim Director of Children's Services was submitted on a recent Ofsted publication in respect of the pupil premium for schools. A copy of the graph highlighting the percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals attaining five or more GCSEs at grade A* to C, was circulated at the meeting,

The Children's Services Finance Manager presented the report and in doing so made particular reference to paragraphs five and six and figure one of the report submitted. She stated that she had discussed the figures mentioned with the IT analysts in Children's Services, and that a further report in relation to Dudley School's pupil premium analysis data would be reported at the next meeting.

Resolved

- (1) That the report submitted in relation to the recent Ofsted publication 'The pupil premium: an update', be noted, and a further report highlighting the Dudley School's pupil premium analysis data to be considered at the next meeting of the Forum

25. Pensnett Site Disposal Update

An oral update was given on this item with particular reference to the funding that had been secured from the Education Funding Agency, which would enable a refurbishment of the site and a support facility for persons with learning disabilities. It was also noted that, pending Cabinet approval, the building would be part demolished and further consideration would be given to the use of the site.

In responding to a query, Councillor Crumpton confirmed that the Holt Farm site would be demolished. He also acknowledged the good work undertaken at Pensnett Site within a short amount of time.

Resolved

That the comments made in relation to the Pensnett Site Disposal Update be noted.

26. Dudley's Scheme for Financing Schools – Approval of Amendments following Consultation

A report of the Interim Director of Children's Services was submitted on the amendments to the Dudley's Scheme for Financing Schools following a period of consultation during the Summer Term 2014. Appendix A of the report, submitted highlighting the summary of changes was circulated at the meeting.

Resolved

That the proposed amendments required in respect of Dudley's Scheme for Financing Schools, as attached at Appendix A, and taking into account the consultation response, be approved.

27. Schools Forum Membership Update

An oral update was given on this item with particular reference to the membership vacancies, and in responding to a query, it was agreed that a list of the membership would be circulated to Secondary Head Teachers.

The Children's Services Finance Manager informed Members that Mr Weaver, had submitted his resignation as Primary Governor and therefore will no longer be a member of the Forum.

Resolved

That the comments made in relation to the Schools Forum Membership be noted.

28. Date of Future Meeting

The Chair requested that Members should arrange for substitutes to attend, should they be unable to attend a meeting.

Resolved

That the date of the next meeting, 21st October, 2014, be noted.

The meeting ended at 7.05 p.m.

CHAIR

Schools Forum 21st October 2014

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

The Pupil Premium – Dudley's Data

Purpose of Report

1. Following a recent Ofsted publication in respect of the pupil premium for schools, to present to Schools Forum Dudley's pupil premium data and closing the gap analysis.

Budget Working Group Discussed

2. Presentation will be made at a meeting yet to be confirmed.

Schools Forum Role and Responsibilities

3. The pupil premium is a government funded grant which is directed to schools through the Local Authority. The funding is additional to a school's annual budget share which is funded by the Department for Education's (DfE) grant: the Dedicated School Grant (DSG).
4. The Authority may consult the Forum on such other matters concerning the funding of schools as they see fit.

Action for Schools Forum

5. To note the Ofsted publication dated July 2014 in respect of the pupil premium, attached at Appendix 1, and to receive a presentation in respect of Dudley's pupil premium data and closing the gap analysis.

Attachments to Report

6. Appendix 1 - Ofsted documentation the Pupil Premium: An update.

Karen Cocker
Children's Services Finance Manager
6th October 2014

Schools Forum 21st October 2014

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

The Pupil Premium – Dudley's Data

Purpose of Report

1. Following a recent Ofsted publication in respect of the pupil premium for schools, to present to Schools Forum Dudley's pupil premium data and closing the gap analysis.

Background

2. The Pupil Premium is a DfE grant provided to schools as additional support for looked after children and those from low income families. Schools are free to spend the money they are allocated as they see fit, however the DfE are clear that schools will be held accountable for how this additional funding to support pupils from low-income families and from service families is used. It was worth £625m nationally in 2011/12 rising to £2.5bn by 2014/15.
3. For 2014/15, schools will receive £1,300 per primary pupil who is currently eligible for free schools meals (FSM) or has been eligible for FSM in the past 6 years (FSM 'Ever 6') and the allocation for secondary sector will be £935 for FSM 'Ever 6' pupils; the rates for 2013/14 were £953 for a primary pupil and £900 for a secondary pupil.
4. The grant is calculated using the DfE FSM "Ever 6" data and the estimate of grant for Dudley maintained schools for 2014/15 is £11.8m.
5. Pupil Premium will also be allocated for children looked after at least one day as recorded in the March 2013 Children Looked After Data Return (SSDA903) and aged 4 to 15 at 31st August 2012. This allocation will be updated and finalised in October 2014 based on the number of children looked after as recorded in the March 2014 return. The estimate of grant for Dudley maintained schools for 2014/15 is £1.034m based on £1,900 per capita.
6. The Pupil Premium for 2014/15 will now also include those pupils recorded on the January 2014 School Census who were looked after immediately before being adopted on or after 30 December 2005, or were placed on a Special Guardianship or Residence Order immediately after being looked after (known as post-LAC). The estimated grant for Dudley maintained schools is £125,400.

Ofsted Publication

7. The Ofsted publication issued in July 2014 titled 'The Pupil Premium: an update', provides information on the progress schools have made in using their pupil premium funding to raise achievement for pupils eligible for free school meals. It is based on evidence from 151 inspections carried out between January and December 2013, text review of 1,600 school inspection reports published between

September 2013 and March 2014, and national performance data for 2013. The document is attached at Appendix 1 of this report.

Dudley School's Pupil Premium Data

8. Data in respect of Dudley school's disadvantaged pupil premium analysis and closing the gap (end of primary and secondary phase outcomes) is available for 2012 and 2013. This information will be presented to Schools Forum at the meeting for information and further discussion.

Finance

9. The funding of schools is prescribed by the Department for Education (DfE) through the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013.
10. Schools Forums are regulated by the regulated by the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012.
11. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct grant; Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

Law


12. 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

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

Recommendation

14. Schools Forum to note the recent Ofsted publication 'The Pupil Premium: an update' attached at Appendix 1 and to receive a presentation at the meeting in respect of Dudley school's pupil premium analysis data.



Pauline Sharratt
Interim Director of Children's Services

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

The pupil premium: an update

This report provides an update on the progress schools have made in using their pupil premium funding to raise achievement for pupils eligible for free school meals. It is based on evidence from 151 inspections carried out between January and December 2013, text review of 1,600 school inspection reports published between September 2013 and March 2014, and national performance data for 2013.

Age group: 4–16

Published: July 2014

Reference no: 140088



Corporate member of
Plain English Campaign
Committed to clearer communication

361

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/140088.

To receive regular email alerts about new publications, including survey reports and school inspection reports, please visit our website and go to 'Subscribe'.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.ofsted.gov.uk

No. 140088

© Crown copyright 2014



Contents

Executive summary	4
Background	8
Part A: progress made by schools	9
Many schools are spending their pupil premium funding more effectively	10
Schools that are committed to 'closing the gap' and that have robust tracking systems are showing most improvement	10
Weak leadership and governance is an obstacle in too many schools	15
External reviews of a school's use of the pupil premium	16
Part B: raising attainment and 'closing the gap'	17
Comparison of performance at the end of Key Stage 2	17
Comparison of performance at end of Key Stage 4	18
Notes	21
Annex A: Attainment of pupils at GCSE (2012 to 2013) by local authority area	22

Executive summary

The pupil premium is making a difference in many schools. Overall, school leaders are spending pupil premium funding more effectively, tracking the progress of eligible pupils more closely and reporting outcomes more precisely than before.

There are encouraging signs from inspection that the concerted efforts of good leaders and teachers are helping to increase outcomes for pupils eligible for the pupil premium. However, it will take time to establish whether this increased focus will lead to a narrowing in the attainment gap between those eligible for the pupil premium and other pupils.

The government is spending significant amounts of public money on this group of pupils. Schools will receive around £2.5 billion through pupil premium funding in the financial year 2014–15. This means that an average sized secondary school with average numbers of pupils eligible for free school meals will receive an additional amount of funding in the region of £200,000. This is the equivalent of five full-time teachers.

Ofsted's increased focus on this issue in all inspections is making a difference. In each report, we now include a commentary on the attainment and progress of pupils who are eligible for the pupil premium and evaluate how this compares with other pupils. Headteachers know that their schools will not receive a positive judgement unless they demonstrate that they are focused on improving outcomes for pupils eligible for the pupil premium. For example, in a number of previously outstanding secondary schools that have declined to good or below, inspectors have judged that the pupil premium funding was not being effectively spent.

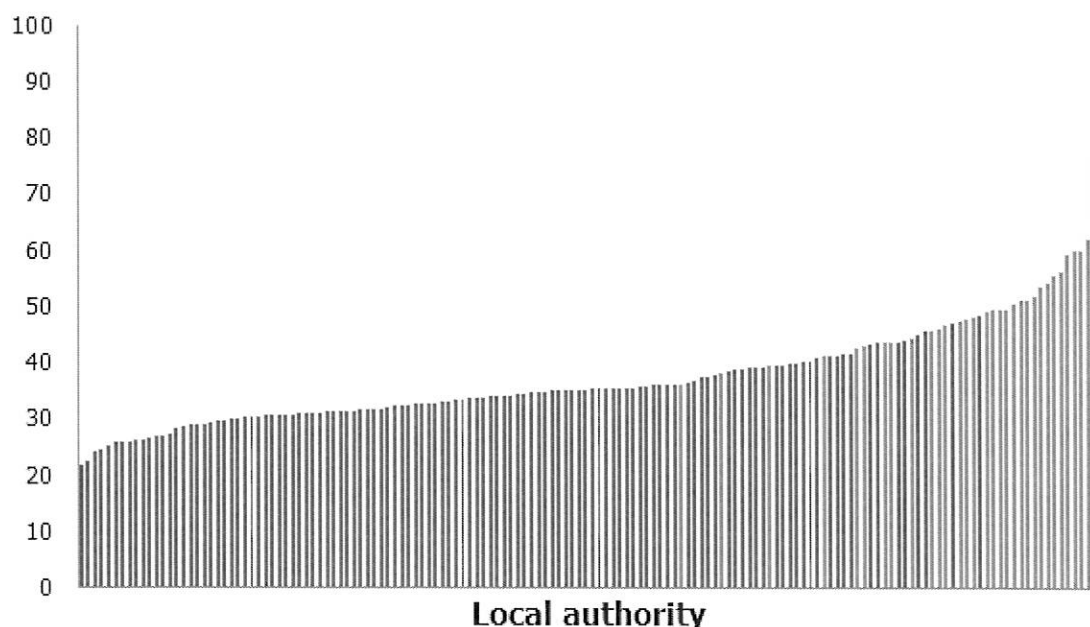
In 151 reports analysed between January and December 2013, there was an association noted between the overall effectiveness of the school and the impact of the pupil premium. Routinely, good and outstanding schools demonstrate unwavering commitment to closing the attainment gap. They target interventions forensically and have robust tracking systems in place to establish what is making a difference and what is not.

In these schools, governing bodies are more aware of their role in monitoring the use of their school's pupil premium funding. The strongest governing bodies take strategic responsibility for ensuring that the funding improves teaching and support for eligible pupils in the school. They know how the funding is being spent, hold leaders to account for expenditure and assess how effectively the funded activities contribute to raising the attainment of eligible pupils.

Weak leadership and governance remain obstacles to narrowing the attainment gap. In schools judged to be inadequate, inspectors commonly report that leaders and governors do not ensure that pupil premium funding is used effectively. In these schools, the attainment of pupils eligible for funding is poor and attainment gaps are too wide.

Although inspectors have seen large improvements in the attitude of school leaders and governors, there is considerable variation across local authorities in the proportion of pupils achieving expected levels at Key Stages 2 and 4 and the rate of improvement from year to year. (See the annex on page 22 for the full list of attainment of pupils at GCSE by local authority area.) Figure 1 demonstrates this difference starkly. Pupils eligible for free school meals in **Barnsley, Portsmouth, South Gloucestershire, North Lincolnshire** and **Northumberland** were least likely to achieve five good GCSE passes including English and mathematics at the end of Key Stage 4. Around one in four eligible pupils achieved this benchmark in these areas in 2013. At the other end of the spectrum, **Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster, Southwark, Tower Hamlets** and **Lambeth** had the highest proportion of eligible pupils achieving five or more good GCSEs, including English and mathematics. In these areas, around three fifths of eligible pupils are attaining this benchmark. This is significantly above the national level of 37.9%.

Figure 1: Percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals attaining five or more GCSEs at grade A* to C including English and mathematics in 2013, by local authority



Source: Department for Education

Each line represents one of 150 individual local authorities in England. Local authorities on the left have the lowest proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals achieving five or more GCSEs grades A* to C including English and mathematics. Grey lines represent London boroughs. Data for City of London and the Isles of Scilly are not included owing to the small numbers of eligible students in these regions.

Figures based on outcomes for eligible free school meal students at the end of Key Stage 4 in the 2012/13 academic year. Figures for 2012/13 are based on revised data.

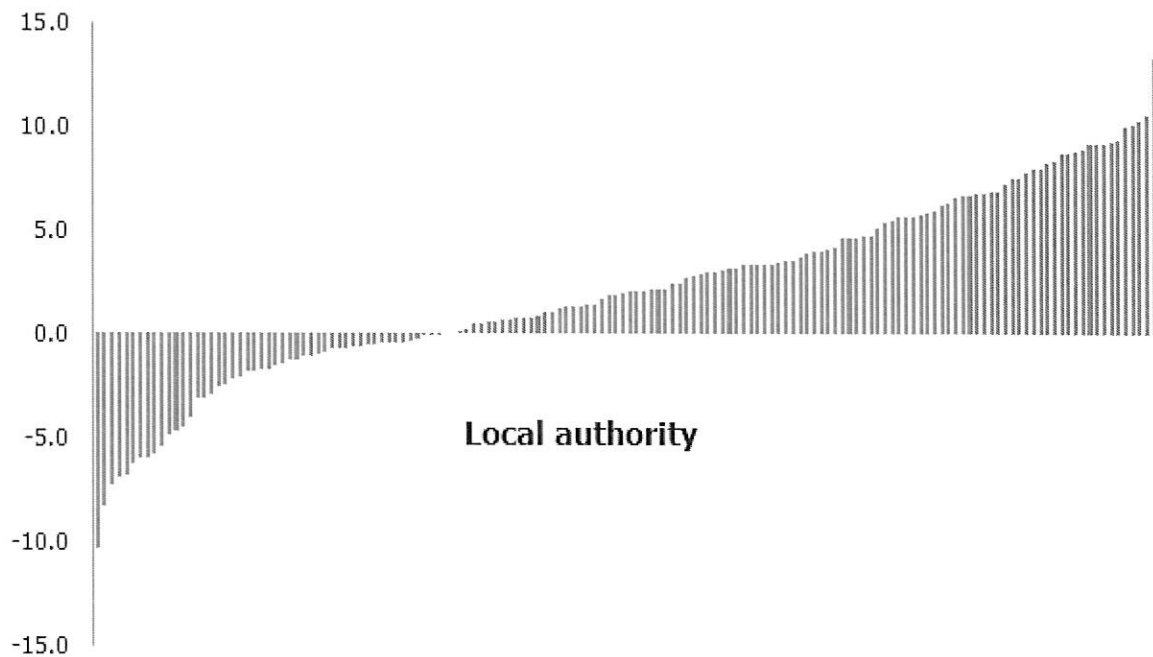
Twenty three of the top 25 local authority areas that attain this GCSE benchmark for eligible pupils are London boroughs. Schools in these areas were performing strongly in 2013 despite having high proportions of pupils coming from poorer backgrounds. This demonstrates powerfully that poverty is not always a predictor of failure.

If gaps are to be narrowed then school leaders must make sure that eligible pupils make faster progress than non-eligible pupils. Some are doing this – particularly in London. In five London boroughs, poor children are achieving above or in line with the national figure for all children at GCSE.

The change in proportion of eligible pupils who achieved at least five GCSEs grades A* to C between 2012 and 2013 varied considerably, ranging from a fall of 10 percentage points in **Thurrock** to an increase of 13 percentage points in **Windsor and Maidenhead**. Those local authority areas that have performed poorly over recent years arguably have greatest scope for most rapid improvement. It is, therefore, welcome to see that 12 of the local authorities identified as having the weakest GCSE performance for eligible pupils in Ofsted's 2013 report 'Unseen children' have made impressive strides to improve. These areas have improved outcomes for eligible students by around six percentage points or more in the period between 2012 and 2013. Seven of them are in the 15 most improved local authorities. However, it is of significant concern that three of the worst performing areas highlighted in 'Unseen children: access and achievement 20 years on' are improving too slowly and in one case has declined further.¹ In 2012, **Barnsley** had the third lowest proportion of eligible children attaining five or more GCSEs grades A* to C. Attainment further declined in 2013 and Barnsley is now the lowest attaining local authority at Key Stage 4. Poor children in Barnsley are getting an extremely raw deal.

¹ *Unseen children: access and achievement 20 years on* (130155), June 2013, Ofsted; www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/unseen-children-access-and-achievement-20-years.

Figure 2: Percentage point change in GCSE outcomes for pupils eligible for free school meals between 2012 and 2013, by local authority



Source: Department for Education

Each line represents one of 150 individual local authorities. In those local authorities below the line, there has been a fall in the proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals achieving GCSEs grades A* to C including English and mathematics. Those above show an increase in the last year. Data for City of London and the Isles of Scilly are not included owing to the small numbers of eligible students in these regions.

Figures based on outcomes for eligible free school meal students at the end of Key Stage 4 in the 2012/13 academic year. 2012/13 figures are based on revised data.

It cannot be right that the likelihood of a child receiving a good education should depend on their postcode or economic circumstance. Government should focus its attention on those areas of the country that are letting poor children down. Ofsted will also focus its attention on these areas in subsequent reports to see if improvements have been made.

Background

1. The pupil premium was introduced in April 2011. It is additional funding given to publicly funded schools in England to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils.² Schools were allocated a total of £1.25 billion in the financial year 2012–13, increasing to £2.5 billion in 2014–15.³ In the financial year 2013–14, schools received £953 for each eligible primary-aged pupil and £900 for each eligible secondary-aged pupil.⁴
2. In September 2012, Ofsted published its first pupil premium report based on a survey involving 262 school leaders.⁵ At that time, only one in 10 of those leaders said that the funding had significantly changed the way that they supported pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds. Typically, funding was being used to maintain or enhance existing provision rather than introduce new initiatives, and its impact on eligible pupils was not being reviewed by governors.
3. In February 2013, Ofsted published 'The Pupil Premium: how schools are spending the funding successfully to maximise achievement'.⁶ This report found that more schools were using their funding well. In the best schools, carefully targeted spending of the pupil premium was starting to raise attainment for eligible pupils. Nevertheless, some schools were still spending the pupil premium on interventions that were having little meaningful impact on eligible pupils' achievement.
4. Since January 2013, Ofsted inspections have placed greater emphasis on how schools use their pupil premium funding. Inspectors have focused on its impact in raising achievement and closing attainment gaps for eligible pupils.⁷ Inspection reports now include a commentary on the attainment and progress of pupils who are eligible for the pupil premium and evaluate how this compares with other pupils.⁸ Since September 2013, inspectors have been able

²Funding is paid, for the most part, to schools according to the number of pupils who have been registered as eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years or have been in care for six months or longer.

³*Raising the achievement of disadvantaged children*, Department for Education, The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP and The Rt Hon David Laws MP, March 2013; www.gov.uk/government/policies/raising-the-achievement-of-disadvantaged-children.

⁴In 2014/15, this will rise to £1,300 per primary pupil and £935 per secondary pupil.

⁵*The pupil premium* (120197), Ofsted, September 2012; www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/pupil-premium.

⁶*The pupil premium: how schools are spending the funding successfully to maximise achievement* (130016), Ofsted, February 2013; www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/pupil-premium-how-schools-are-spending-funding-successfully-maximise-achievement.

⁷ Inspectors evaluate the extent to which gaps are narrowing between the performance of different groups of pupils (including those that are eligible for the pupil premium funding), both in the school and in comparison to those of all pupils nationally.

⁸ Inspectors have reported on schools' use of the pupil premium funding and the impact that it has had on raising the attainment of pupils eligible for free school meals since September 2012. Where

to recommend a review of pupil premium spending. Ofsted will report on the effectiveness of these external reviews in 2015.

Part A: progress made by schools

5. The pupil premium is making a positive difference in many schools, especially where there is good or outstanding leadership and a school-wide commitment to raising achievement for pupils who are eligible for free school meals. Most schools are now using the pupil premium funding more successfully to raise attainment for eligible pupils. This is because most leaders and managers, including members of governing bodies, are routinely paying more attention to the needs of this particular group of pupils.
6. Inspectors found an association between the overall effectiveness of the school and the impact of the pupil premium. In the sample of 151 reports, gaps in attainment for pupils eligible for free school meals were closing in all 86 of the schools judged to be good or outstanding for overall effectiveness. Gaps were closing rapidly in around a fifth of these schools. In 12 schools, there was virtually no difference between the attainment of eligible and non-eligible pupils; most of these schools were judged to be outstanding.
7. In a small proportion of the good schools, typically those whose overall effectiveness had improved since their previous inspection, gaps in attainment were closing more slowly. The inspection reports for these schools commonly include a recommendation for further improvement that relates, at least in part, to those pupils eligible for the pupil premium funding.
8. Gaps in attainment were also closing in around two thirds of the 50 schools that had been judged as requires improvement. However, the rate of improvement in these schools was often inconsistent across different year groups. In some cases, there had been more discernible recent increases in achievement after a period of stubborn poor performance. Often, this recent improvement was linked to changes at senior leadership level or in governance arrangements and the impact that these new leaders have on ensuring that the funding is used more effectively.
9. In general, pupils eligible for the pupil premium were making poor progress in the 15 schools that were inadequate for overall effectiveness. Attainment gaps were typically wider than average or closing too slowly. However, in a few of these schools, the performance of pupils eligible for free school meals, although still too low, was better than their peers.

the numbers of eligible pupils are very small, inspectors may not be able to make a meaningful comparison between their performance and that of other pupils.

Many schools are spending their pupil premium funding more effectively

10. Inspectors report that most schools spend their pupil premium funding effectively on a wide range of initiatives. Since September 2012, details of this spending and its impact must be published annually on schools' websites.
11. In the sample of 151 inspection reports, inspectors describe the most common uses of the pupil premium funding. Although its use is generally tailored to the age-specific needs of the pupils, there are no major differences in the types of spending seen in primary and secondary schools. As noted in Ofsted's previous pupil premium publications, the most frequent use of the funding is to pay for additional staff, including teachers and teaching assistants, who deliver one-to-one support and small group tuition, typically focused on English and mathematics. In general, secondary schools in the sample were more likely to employ additional teachers, and primary schools were more likely to employ additional teaching assistants.
12. Additional staffing is also used to enable schools to offer a range of interventions such as booster classes, reading support or 'raising aspiration' programmes, and to reduce the size of classes. In secondary schools, the funding is frequently used to employ 'learning mentors', who have specific roles in supporting pupils' academic and personal development. In primary schools, the funding is sometimes used to provide specialist support for developing pupils' language and communication skills.
13. The funding is also commonly used to enable eligible pupils to participate fully in after-school clubs and activities and to provide financial support for educational visits. In secondary schools, the funding is often used to provide after-school, weekend and holiday sessions.
14. There is very little difference in the types of spending reported on in the best schools compared with those that are judged as requires improvement or inadequate. However, the major differences are the extent to which leaders ensure that the funding is very carefully targeted at the types of activities that best meet the needs of their pupils, and the rigour with which these activities are monitored, evaluated and amended.

Schools that are committed to 'closing the gap' and that have robust tracking systems are showing most improvement

15. Evidence from the 151 inspection reports shows that the most effective leaders identify their pupils' specific needs accurately and promptly so that low attainment can be tackled at the very earliest stage. They then track the progress of pupils who are eligible for the pupil premium funding meticulously and make sensible amendments to the support they provide as a result of their monitoring and evaluation.

16. The best leaders ensure that additional adult support is of high quality. Every effort is made to ensure that pupils eligible for the pupil premium have access to the best teachers and are supported by skilled and well-trained additional adults. These schools ensure that the work of additional adults is closely monitored and thoroughly evaluated.
17. In the successful schools, there is a very strong commitment, shared by staff and governors, to doing everything possible to remove any barriers that might hinder a pupil's development. These schools are highly ambitious, respond to what they know to be good practice and ensure that their vision for improvement is clear.

Setting a clear vision and high expectations

In this outstanding secondary school, the proportion of students known to be eligible for the pupil premium is high. In 2013, 83% of pupils eligible for free school meals achieved at least five GCSEs grades A* to C including English and mathematics compared with 88% of other pupils. Value-added and progress data for eligible pupils was significantly above average.

School website

'Key principles for using pupil premium 2012–13⁹:

1. The school carefully ring-fences the funding at the beginning of the academic year so that it was spent on a targeted group of students.
2. The school never confuses eligibility for the pupil premium with low ability, and focuses on supporting our disadvantaged pupils to achieve the highest levels.
3. The school thoroughly analyses which pupils are underachieving, particularly in English, mathematics and science, and why.
4. The school drew and draws upon evidence from our own and others' experience to allocate the funding to the activities that were most likely to have an impact on improving achievement.
5. We allocate our best teachers to teach intervention groups to improve mathematics and English, or re-deploy support teachers who have a good track record in raising attainment in those subjects.

⁹ These principles are based on the good practice characteristics identified in *The Pupil Premium: how schools are spending the funding successfully to maximise achievement* (130016), Ofsted, February 2013; www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/pupil-premium-how-schools-are-spending-funding-successfully-maximise-achievement.

6. The school uses achievement data frequently to check whether interventions or techniques are working and make adjustments accordingly, rather than just using the data retrospectively to see if something had worked.

7. The school ensures that a designated senior leader, an Assistant Headteacher, plus the Headteacher have a clear overview of how the funding is being allocated and the difference it is making to the outcomes for pupils termly.

8. The school also ensures that class and subject teachers know which pupils are eligible for the pupil premium so that they can take responsibility for accelerating their progress.

9. The projects we have set up are to tackle a range of issues, e.g. attendance, behaviour, factors outside school, professional INSET on FSM pupils, effective teaching and learning, strong careers information, advice and guidance, literacy support, targeted support, good facilities for supported self-study, further enrichment.'

Inspection report

Students supported by the pupil premium do exceptionally well in all years because high quality teaching is well matched to their specific needs. They achieve better GCSE results than most students do nationally. The gap between their attainment and that of their peer group in the college is half a GCSE grade in English and less than half a grade in mathematics... The additional funding available through the pupil premium is very carefully targeted. Its impact is monitored to make sure that it is having the intended effect. As a result, these students make progress at a much faster rate than students nationally.

18. Although schools often spend the funding on a common menu of activities, effective leaders make informed choices, on a yearly and flexible basis, that match the particular needs of their pupils. They continue with interventions that have been successful and amend their practice where it has been less successful.
19. The most successful schools ensure that pupils catch up with the basics of literacy and numeracy and offer support, where necessary, to improve pupils' attendance, behaviour, confidence and resilience. In the primary schools sampled, there was a very strong focus on improving reading. In the secondary schools, support for English and mathematics catch-up was often targeted at Year 7, but also continued across Key Stages 3 and 4.
20. In the best schools, the overall package of support for eligible pupils is comprehensive, well-integrated and responsive to their changing needs. In these schools, leaders put in place a balanced programme of whole-school, targeted and specialist support that takes into account the needs of all pupils.

Where schools encountered barriers to providing the support required, they found creative ways to achieve their aims.

A comprehensive package of support responds to a wide range of specific needs

This outstanding secondary school is larger than average. There are more boys than girls in the school. The proportion of students eligible for the pupil premium is well above average. Over 80% of pupils in the 2013 Key Stage 4 cohort were eligible for free school meals. Sixty two per cent of these pupils achieved at least five GCSEs grades A* to C including English and mathematics. Their value added was significantly above average.

School website

'Students below national levels in English at KS3 will be allocated to Extended English (literacy) lessons on the timetable. The programme is designed to accelerate the children's writing and reading skills. Extended English is taught in small sets by specialist teachers.

At Key Stage 4 students who have not made progress in line with national expectations and are at risk of falling short of a grade C in English language are targeted for two additional lessons of English a week. English booster tuition provides intensive coaching and guidance by very experienced GCSE teachers in English language in small groups averaging three students.

Mathematics booster tuition targets children in Years 7 to 11 to provide intensive coaching and guidance by qualified teachers and support staff in mathematics in small sets. This budget enables some smaller sets to be created so as to provide more personalised attention and guidance for the students.

The Success Ambassadors are a team of excellent role models who mentor targeted students and provide intervention support for children to improve their reading. The Success Lounge has been set up as an after-school base for children to do their homework and obtain additional assistance. Attendance for targeted students is compulsory; for others it is optional.

The Raising Achievement Team has been established to improve the attainment of students. The Team manages the Success Lounge and produces data for whole school use. They analyse performance and develop staff use of data and intervention methods to monitor and target support.

Inspection report

In 2012, a gap between the attainment and progress of students eligible for the pupil premium and other students was quickly identified. Action was taken that meant that the gap was halved in both English and mathematics in 2013 such that these students now achieve about half a grade less well than their peers in the school. The 'Raising Achievement Team' tracks the progress of these students... The school makes excellent use of its pupil premium funding to provide a summer school, after-school support in the 'Success Lounge' and booster sessions offered through subject teams to meet the needs of individuals.

21. Strong governance is critical to schools' successful use of the pupil premium funding to accelerate progress and narrow gaps in attainment. Effective governors are ambitious for their poorest pupils and hold leaders to account for their decisions and for the impact of initiatives funded by the pupil premium.
22. Inspectors also report that strong governing bodies are fully involved in deciding how pupil premium funding is used. Finances are tightly controlled and decisions on spending are linked closely to priorities in the school improvement plan. They monitor its effectiveness in closing the attainment gap between different groups of pupils. They have a comprehensive knowledge of published data and are skilled in using this to check on the progress of the school and hold staff to account. They also take steps to collect first-hand evidence, for example by meeting with students and teachers.

Successful governors are very actively involved in holding leaders to account for the achievement of pupils eligible for the pupil premium

Good primary school

In 2013, all pupils eligible for free school meals in this good primary school achieved a Level 4 or above in reading, writing and mathematics. Their value added was significantly above average.

Inspection report

The governing body's 'Raising of Achievement Group' checks the progress of all of the groups of pupils each month. Governors stringently hold senior leaders to account for all aspects of the school's work. They have regular financial reports and make checks on the school's budget.

Good secondary school

The proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals in this good secondary school is much higher than average. In 2013, 62% of pupils from low income backgrounds achieved five GCSEs grades A* to C including English and mathematics, which is one percentage point below

other pupils. The value added for these pupils was significantly above average.

Inspection report

The governing body is well informed and holds school leaders strongly to account for raising standards. Detailed reports from the headteacher and presentations from faculty leaders ensure that they know how much progress individuals, groups and classes are making... They make regular visits and use assessment information to measure how students achieve compared with their peers in other schools. They effectively monitor the pupil premium and catch-up funding to make sure it is raising achievement for eligible students.

Weak leadership and governance is an obstacle in too many schools

23. A common weakness in the schools where gaps in attainment are not closing quickly enough is insufficient analysis of the learning needs of pupils eligible for the pupil premium funding. In such schools, even where information about pupils' progress was available, it was not always used well enough to ensure that funding was appropriately targeted.

Inspection report

Leaders do not analyse this information [about pupils' progress] in enough detail to see how different groups of students are doing. This makes it difficult for them and for the interim executive board to check on how well the changing needs of different groups of students are being met. For example, the school was not clear until very recently about how many pupils who were eligible for the pupil premium were also at the early stages of speaking English and new to the school. This makes it hard for leaders to plan precisely what they need to do to accelerate the progress of these students.

24. In some of the weaker schools, analysis of pupils' progress had not been shared fully with teachers. Consequently, teachers were unable to plan work that met the needs of pupils.

Inspection report

The school has not used assessment information about how well these students are doing to provide them with appropriate work. Leaders do not check the progress of individuals and groups of students well enough or provide teachers with the necessary information to make sure that they set work at the right level for students.

25. In the very weakest performing schools, inspection reports identified a worrying lack of focus on pupils eligible for the pupil premium. In these schools, a

widespread failure in leadership and governance had normally been identified. Leaders had not prioritised raising the attainment of pupils eligible for free school meals and poorly informed or unskilled governors had not held leaders to account.

Inspection report

The headteacher is unaware of the impact that the spending of pupil premium funds has on the achievements of those pupils for whom it is intended. Information about the achievement of this group of pupils, published on the school's website, is incorrect... The previous governing body did not provide appropriate challenge or support to the school's senior leaders to improve the school's performance... The interim executive board has started to take urgent action to address the key areas for improvement. A consultant headteacher has been appointed and is now beginning to work with the school and members of the executive board. However, it is too soon to judge the impact of their work.

Inspection report

Prior to the appointment of the current Associate Principal, there was no evidence of any accountability for use of the pupil premium or its impact. This is now being addressed and senior leaders are monitoring the effect this additional finance is having on the attainment and progress of those students for whom it is intended... Since the Executive and Associate Principals joined the staff and the new governance arrangements have been put in place, the life and work of the academy has been reinvigorated. The Associate Principal's evaluation of the academy's performance is accurate and he has galvanised his colleagues into action, putting in place systems to address the most pressing priorities. However, many of these strategies are so new it is too early to assess their impact on students' outcomes.

External reviews of a school's use of the pupil premium

26. Since September 2013, inspectors have been able to recommend an external review of the school's use of the pupil premium funding where the inspection identifies specific issues regarding the provision for eligible pupils. Even where leadership and management are judged to be good, inspectors may use their professional judgement to determine whether a recommendation for an external review of the school's use of the pupil premium would benefit the school.
27. A text review of around 1,600 inspection reports (where the school had been judged as requires improvement or inadequate) published between September 2013 and March 2014 identified that approximately 350 of these reports

included a recommendation for a review of the schools' use of the pupil premium.

28. The most common reason for a review of the school's use of the pupil premium funding was that gaps were not closing sufficiently well, especially in English and mathematics. The most common criticism in inspection reports was that the impact of spending was not being evaluated effectively by leaders and governors. Other examples of poor leadership and management include not ensuring that the funding is spent on the specific pupils for whom it is intended or having an underspend.
29. At this stage it is too early to determine the effectiveness of external reviews of the pupil premium in bringing about improvement. We will report on this in early 2015.

Part B: raising attainment and 'closing the gap'

30. Attainment in England has been rising steadily over recent years for all types of pupils. However, as the attainment of pupils eligible for free school meals has improved at a similar rate to other pupils, the 'attainment gap' has closed only slightly. This is particularly the case at the end of Key Stage 4.
31. Some of the complex reasons for the lower attainment of pupils from low income backgrounds, including differences in the performance of pupils from different ethnic backgrounds, were discussed in Ofsted's recent report 'Unseen Children: access and achievement 20 years on'.¹⁰

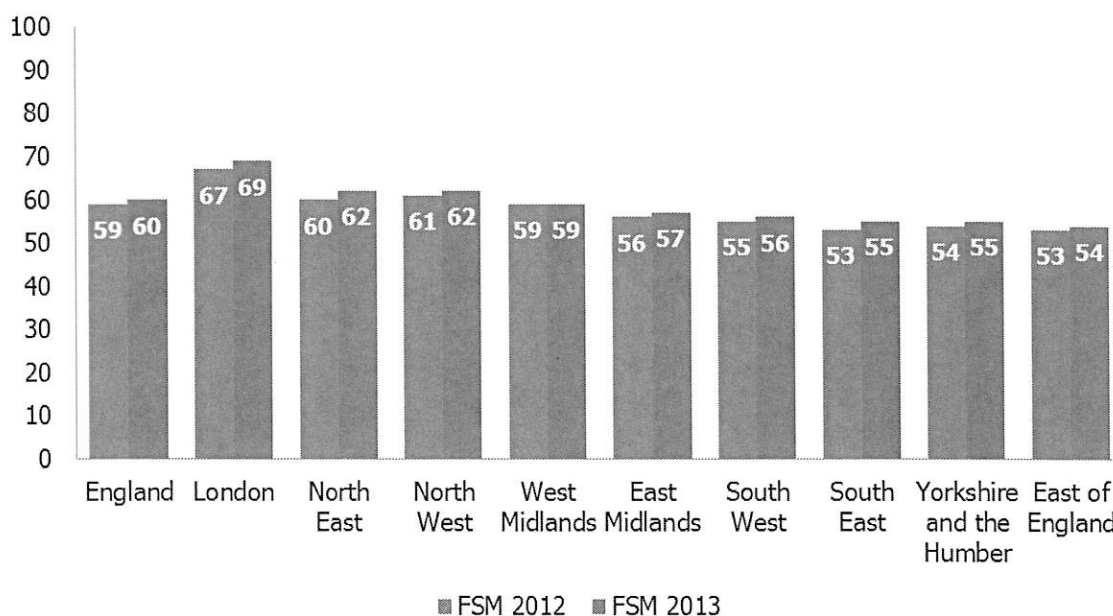
Comparison of performance at the end of Key Stage 2

32. In 2013, 60% of pupils eligible for free school meals achieved a Level 4 or better in reading, writing and mathematics in Key Stage 2 tests compared with 79% of non-eligible pupils. This is an increase of one percentage point on the 2012 figures for both groups. The attainment gap in 2013 remained at a difference of 19 percentage points.¹¹
33. Small increases in the attainment of pupils eligible for free school meals were noted in most regions between 2012 and 2013 (see Figure 3). Nevertheless, gaps in attainment remained broadly the same across all regions.

¹⁰ *Unseen children: access and achievement 20 years on* (130155), June 2013, Ofsted; www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/unseen-children-access-and-achievement-20-years.

¹¹ The collection method applied by the Department for Education from English and mathematics as the key measurement up to 2011 was replaced by reading, writing and mathematics in 2012. This has implications on how we interpret the effect pupil premium might be having within primary schools nationally.

Figure 3: Percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals attaining Level 4+ in reading, writing and mathematics at Key Stage 2, by region



Source: Department for Education

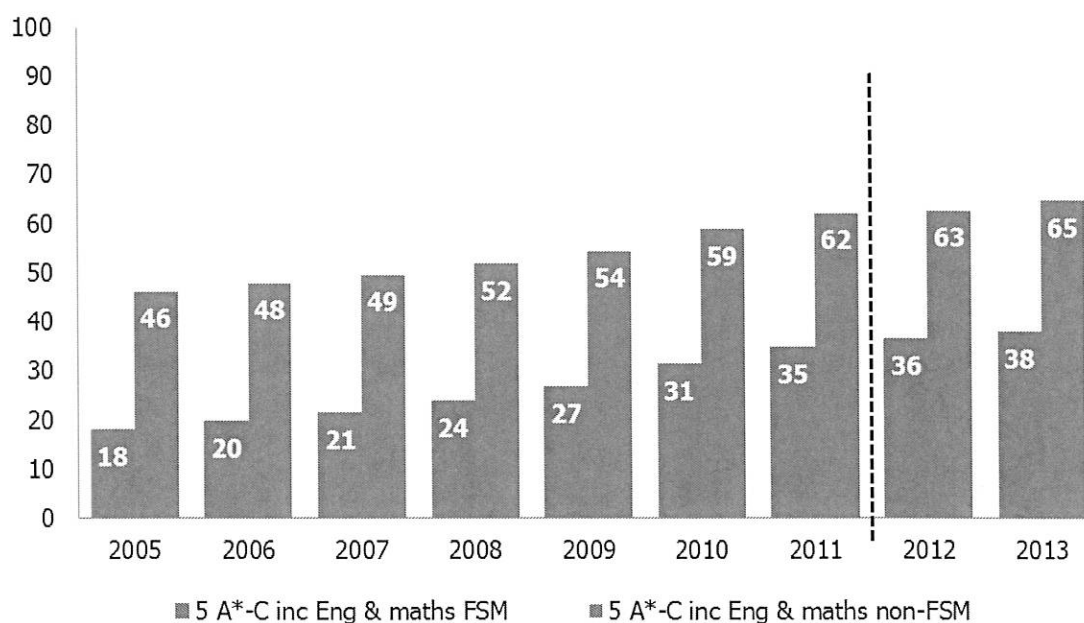
Figures for 2012 are based on final data; 2013 figures are based on revised data.

34. Attainment for pupils eligible for free school meals was highest in London (69%) and lowest in the East of England (54%) in 2013.

Comparison of performance at end of Key Stage 4

35. In 2013, 38% of pupils eligible for free school meals achieved five GCSEs or more at grades A* to C including English and mathematics compared with 65% of non-eligible pupils. This attainment gap – 27 percentage points – is unchanged from 2012.
36. The 2013 figures follow a pattern of improvement evident since 2005 (see Figure 4). Although levels of attainment have gradually improved for all pupils, the 'attainment gap' has narrowed at a very slow rate. The fact that this is the case both before and after the introduction of the pupil premium is not surprising, given how recently the funding was introduced. It will take time before the full impact of this policy may be seen in national data.

Figure 4: Percentage of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 attaining five or more GCSEs grades A* to C including English and mathematics, by free school meals eligibility, 2005–13



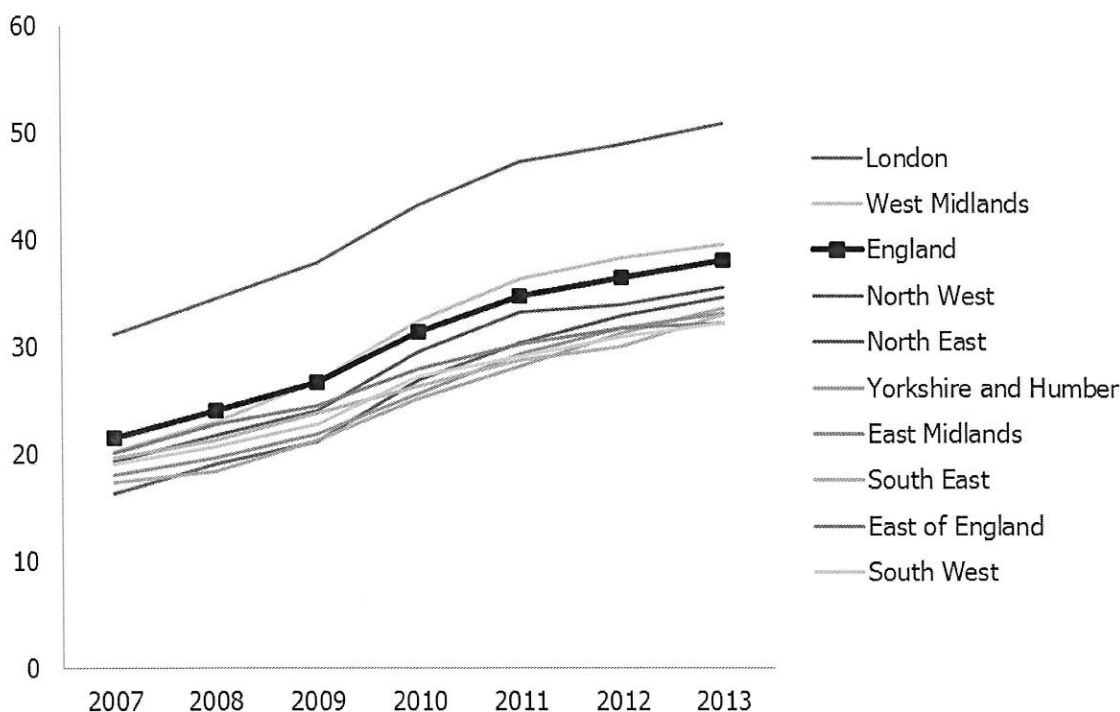
Source: Department for Education

The dotted line represents the point in time when the pupil premium was introduced (April 2011). It is very unlikely that this funding would have influenced the attainment of the 2011 cohort sitting GCSE examinations in summer 2011. Figures for academic years 2005-12 are based on final data. Figures for 2013 are based on revised data.

Figures are based on students in state-funded schools (including academies and city technology colleges) at the end of Key Stage 4 in each academic year.

37. In 2013, the attainment of pupils eligible for free school meals increased in all regions at the end of Key Stage 4 (see Figure 5). Levels of attainment for pupils eligible for free school meals were highest in London (51%) and lowest in the South West and East of England (32%). The attainment of pupils eligible for free school meals at the end of Key Stage 4 rose most, from a low base, in the South East (three percentage points) and least in the East of England in 2013.

Figure 5: Percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals at the end of Key Stage 4 attaining five or more GCSEs grades A* to C including English and mathematics, by region, 2007–13



Source: Department for Education

Figures for academic years 2007–12 are based on final data. Figures for 2013 are based on revised data. Based on students in state-funded schools (including academies and city technology colleges) at the end of Key Stage 4 in each academic year.

38. There is considerable variation across local authorities in the proportion of pupils achieving expected levels at Key Stages 2 and 4, and the rate of improvement from year to year. Pupils eligible for free school meals in **Barnsley, Portsmouth, South Gloucestershire, North Lincolnshire and Northumberland** were least likely to achieve five good GCSE passes including English and mathematics at the end of Key Stage 4 in 2013. Around one in four eligible pupils achieve this benchmark in these areas (see Annex A). At the other end of the spectrum **Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster, Southwark, Tower Hamlets and Lambeth** had the highest proportion of eligible pupils achieving five or more good GCSEs, including English and mathematics. In these areas, around three fifths of eligible pupils are attaining this benchmark. This is significantly above the national level of 37.9% of free school meal eligible pupils attaining this benchmark.
39. Following the publication of Ofsted's 'Unseen children' report, many of the lowest attaining local authorities for free school meal eligible pupils have improved their performance. **Peterborough** and **West Berkshire** are two of

the most improved, increasing their attainment for this group by 10 and nine percentage points, respectively, in 2013. **Herefordshire, Swindon, Shropshire, Dorset, Warrington** and **Hartlepool** also improved their attainment outcomes by more than seven percentage points during this period.

40. Similarly, some local authorities in the South East region have also improved their GCSE outcomes quite considerably for free school meal eligible pupils. From a position in 2012 where no authority in this region had attainment above the national figures for free school meal eligible pupils, **Windsor and Maidenhead, Slough, Milton Keynes** and **Surrey** are now all above the national figure for this group.
41. However, some authorities with the lowest attainment for free school meal eligible pupils in 2012 have not improved their performance. GCSE attainment in **Barnsley**, for example, decreased for this group in 2013 and the authority is now the lowest performing.

Notes

This report is based on three main sources of evidence:

- analysis of national, regional and local authority level data published by the Department for Education in 2013¹²
- analysis of the main strengths and weaknesses in schools' use of the funding, based on a random selection of 151 inspection reports published between January 2013 and December 2013
- text review of 1,600 school reports, published between September 2013 and March 2014.

Report selection was stratified by the schools' overall effectiveness judgement to provide useful case studies of stronger and weaker practice. The sample included 83 primary schools and 68 secondary schools. Special schools were not included in the selection process.¹³ Case studies also draw on information from the selected schools' websites.

¹² *GCSE and equivalent attainment by pupil characteristics*, Department for Education SFR05/2014, February 2014; www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-and-equivalent-attainment-by-pupil-characteristics-2012-to-2013.

National curriculum assessments at key stage 2: 2012 to 2013, Department for Education SFR51/2013, December 2013; www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-assessments-at-key-stage-2-2012-to-2013.

¹³ Twenty nine of the schools were outstanding, 57 were good, 50 were requires improvement and 15 were inadequate.

Annex A: Attainment of pupils eligible for free school meals at GCSE between 2012 and 2013, by local authority area

Local authority	Region	% of FSM eligible students attaining GCSE benchmark		Change between 2012 and 2013
		2012	2013	
Kensington and Chelsea	London	76.8	76.7	-0.1
Westminster	London	65.3	62.2	-3.1
Southwark	London	51.7	60.1	8.4
Tower Hamlets	London	59.4	60.0	0.6
Lambeth	London	56.1	59.5	3.4
Islington	London	45.7	56.3	10.6
Haringey	London	46.4	55.6	9.2
Redbridge	London	56.0	54.2	-1.8
Barnet	London	50.4	53.8	3.4
Hounslow	London	50.8	51.9	1.1
Hammersmith and Fulham	London	47.4	51.3	3.9
Greenwich	London	48.9	51.3	2.4
Newham	London	55.2	50.5	-4.7
Hackney	London	51.8	49.7	-2.1
Croydon	London	43.2	49.5	6.3
Harrow	London	40.2	49.4	9.2
Barking and Dagenham	London	49.5	49.1	-0.4
Windsor and Maidenhead	South East	35.0	48.4	13.4
Brent	London	42.8	48.2	5.4
Bromley	London	40.7	48.0	7.3
Ealing	London	45.3	47.5	2.2
Birmingham	West Midlands	47.4	47.3	-0.1
Wandsworth	London	45.9	46.8	0.9
Waltham Forest	London	40.3	46.0	5.7

Local authority	Region	% of FSM eligible students attaining GCSE benchmark		Change between 2012 and 2013
		2012	2013	
Hillingdon	London	45.9	45.8	-0.1
Slough	South East	35.6	45.7	10.1
Luton	East of England	40.2	45.0	4.8
Merton	London	45.1	44.4	-0.7
Halton	North West	36.1	44.1	8.0
Wolverhampton	West Midlands	37.0	43.9	6.9
Enfield	London	40.4	43.8	3.4
Camden	London	45.9	43.7	-2.2
North Tyneside	North East, Yorkshire and Humber	36.8	43.6	6.8
Kirklees	North East, Yorkshire and Humber	39.3	43.3	4.0
Richmond upon Thames	London	42.5	43.1	0.6
Sutton	London	39.2	42.7	3.5
Darlington	North East, Yorkshire and Humber	34.0	41.8	7.8
Trafford	North West	43.6	41.8	-1.8
Milton Keynes	South East	31.3	41.3	10.0
Bexley	London	42.4	41.3	-1.1
Bury	North West	42.8	41.3	-1.5
Solihull	West Midlands	39.0	41.1	2.1
Manchester	North West	39.7	40.4	0.7
York	North East, Yorkshire and Humber	36.2	40.2	4.0
Wakefield	North East, Yorkshire and Humber	32.1	40.1	8.0
Bolton	North West	36.8	39.9	3.1
Oldham	North West	36.6	39.8	3.2
Rochdale	North West	31.2	39.5	8.3
Lewisham	London	45.5	39.5	-6.0
Leicester	East Midlands	37.3	39.4	2.1

Local authority	Region	% of FSM eligible students attaining GCSE benchmark		Change between 2012 and 2013
		2012	2013	
Blackburn with Darwen	North West	40.1	39.4	-0.7
Surrey	South East	32.5	39.3	6.8
South Tyneside	North East, Yorkshire and Humber	33.3	39.0	5.7
Torbay	South West	32.3	38.9	6.6
Tameside	North West	31.8	38.7	6.9
Kingston upon Thames	London	43.1	38.2	-4.9
County Durham	North East, Yorkshire and Humber	36.7	38.0	1.3
Wirral	North West	40.7	37.6	-3.1
Sandwell	West Midlands	36.2	37.5	1.3
Sefton	North West	30.1	36.8	6.7
East Riding of Yorkshire	North East, Yorkshire and Humber	31.7	36.4	4.7
Bedford	East of England	27.6	36.3	8.7
Havering	London	43.1	36.3	-6.8
Gateshead	North East, Yorkshire and Humber	30.4	36.2	5.8
North Yorkshire	North East, Yorkshire and Humber	33.9	36.1	2.2
Wigan	North West	37.8	36.1	-1.7
Medway	South East	34.1	35.8	1.7
Coventry	West Midlands	35.3	35.8	0.5
Salford	North West	30.6	35.7	5.1
Southampton	South East	32.4	35.6	3.2
Staffordshire	West Midlands	32.8	35.6	2.8
Bradford	North East, Yorkshire and Humber	34.8	35.6	0.8
Nottinghamshire	East Midlands	32.5	35.5	3.0
Plymouth	South West	34.1	35.5	1.4
Hartlepool	North East, Yorkshire	26.0	35.3	9.3

Local authority	Region	% of FSM eligible students attaining GCSE benchmark		Change between 2012 and 2013
		2012	2013	
	and Humber			
Poole	South West	39.8	35.3	-4.5
Warwickshire	West Midlands	30.5	35.2	4.7
Essex	East of England	34.4	35.2	0.8
Hertfordshire	East of England	35.7	35.2	-0.5
Reading	South East	35.4	35.1	-0.3
Calderdale	North East, Yorkshire and Humber	35.4	35.0	-0.4
Rotherham	North East, Yorkshire and Humber	33.4	34.8	1.4
Liverpool	North West	35.1	34.7	-0.4
Warrington	North West	25.2	34.6	9.4
Walsall	West Midlands	34.3	34.5	0.2
Buckinghamshire	South East	29.6	34.3	4.7
Rutland	East Midlands	35.7	34.3	-1.4
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	North East, Yorkshire and Humber	27.9	34.1	6.2
Dorset	South West	25.2	34.0	8.8
Gloucestershire	South West	32.0	33.9	1.9
Newcastle upon Tyne	North East, Yorkshire and Humber	31.6	33.8	2.2
Devon	South West	34.4	33.8	-0.6
Cornwall	South West	34.2	33.6	-0.6
Stockport	North West	36.1	33.6	-2.5
Worcestershire	West Midlands	29.7	33.3	3.6
Lincolnshire	East Midlands	32.4	33.1	0.7
West Sussex	South East	27.3	32.8	5.5
Kent	South East	31.7	32.8	1.1
Middlesbrough	North East, Yorkshire and Humber	35.4	32.8	-2.6
Swindon	South West	24.0	32.7	8.7
Sunderland	North East, Yorkshire	39.5	32.6	-6.9

Local authority	Region	% of FSM eligible students attaining GCSE benchmark		Change between 2012 and 2013
		2012	2013	
	and Humber			
North Somerset	South West	30.5	32.5	2.0
Nottingham	East Midlands	29.3	32.3	3.0
Derbyshire	East Midlands	28.4	32.0	3.6
Shropshire	West Midlands	24.4	31.9	7.5
North East Lincolnshire	North East, Yorkshire and Humber	29.0	31.9	2.9
Herefordshire, County of	West Midlands	22.8	31.7	8.9
Redcar and Cleveland	North East, Yorkshire and Humber	29.3	31.7	2.4
Dudley	West Midlands	27.5	31.6	4.1
St. Helens	North West	28.1	31.5	3.4
Lancashire	North West	30.2	31.4	1.2
East Sussex	South East	30.9	31.4	0.5
Northamptonshire	East Midlands	31.7	31.3	-0.4
West Berkshire	South East	21.9	31.1	9.2
Wokingham	South East	26.2	31.0	4.8
Telford and Wrekin	West Midlands	37.3	31.0	-6.3
Thurrock	East of England	41.3	31.0	-10.3
Stockton-on-Tees	North East, Yorkshire and Humber	24.2	30.9	6.7
Leeds	North East, Yorkshire and Humber	26.7	30.9	4.2
Somerset	South West	28.9	30.8	1.9
Cheshire West and Chester	North West	24.6	30.6	6.0
Cambridgeshire	East of England	24.7	30.6	5.9
Brighton and Hove	South East	27.1	30.5	3.4
Bath and North East Somerset	South West	30.5	30.5	0.0
Oxfordshire	South East	29.5	30.3	0.8
Sheffield	North East, Yorkshire	30.3	30.1	-0.2

Local authority	Region	% of FSM eligible students attaining GCSE benchmark		Change between 2012 and 2013
		2012	2013	
	and Humber			
Bournemouth	South West	31.1	30.1	-1.0
Stoke-on-Trent	West Midlands	29.5	29.6	0.1
Doncaster	North East, Yorkshire and Humber	30.7	29.6	-1.1
Bristol, City of	South West	26.6	29.3	2.7
Bracknell Forest	South East	27.9	29.2	1.3
Peterborough	East of England	18.7	29.0	10.3
Isle of Wight	South East	23.2	28.9	5.7
Leicestershire	East Midlands	29.4	28.9	-0.5
Derby	East Midlands	32.6	28.6	-4.0
Southend-on-Sea	East of England	24.5	28.2	3.7
Hampshire	South East	26.1	27.4	1.3
Suffolk	East of England	27.1	27.1	0.0
Wiltshire	South West	30.0	27.1	-2.9
Norfolk	East of England	32.5	26.7	-5.8
Cheshire East	North West	28.1	26.4	-1.7
Central Bedfordshire	East of England	27.5	26.2	-1.3
Knowsley	North West	27.3	26.0	-1.3
Cumbria	North West	23.8	25.9	2.1
Blackpool	North West	31.8	25.8	-6.0
Northumberland	North East, Yorkshire and Humber	26.1	25.2	-0.9
North Lincolnshire	North East, Yorkshire and Humber	31.9	24.6	-7.3
South Gloucestershire	South West	32.7	24.4	-8.3
Portsmouth	South East	28.0	22.6	-5.4
Barnsley	North East, Yorkshire and Humber	22.5	21.8	-0.7

Schools Forum 21st October 2014

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

Feedback on the Consultation on Allocation from Dudley's Dedicated Schools Grant Reserve for 2015/16 and 2016/17

Purpose of Report

1. To report consultation feedback in order that Schools Forum can approve the methodology to allocate one off funding of £4.0m to schools from the Dedicated Schools Grant reserve over a two year period 2015/16 and 2016/17.

Budget Working Group Discussed

2. Yes – 15th October 2014

Schools Forum Role and Responsibilities

3. The Director of Children's Service is responsible for proposing and deciding on changes to the local funding formulae for Dudley schools.
4. The Schools Finance and Early Years (England) Regulations 2013 at Regulation 9 prescribes that for determining the budget shares etc for certain maintained schools and early years the local authority must consult their Schools Forum and schools maintained by the authority of any proposed changes in relation to the factors and criteria taken into account, and the methods, principles and rules adopted.
5. As part of this process, Schools Forum must be consulted and it is normal practice to discuss the proposals with Headteachers Consultative Forum – Budget Working Group.
6. The Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012 at Regulation 8(10) prescribe that non-schools members, other than those who represent early years providers, must not vote on matters relating to the formulae to be used by the local authority to determine the amounts to be allocated to schools and early years providers in accordance with regulations made under sections 47 and 47a of the Act.
7. Whilst the Director's decision on this matter is final, Schools Forum members (excluding non school members other than the representative of the early year's providers) are invited to vote in respect of the proposed changes before a final decision is reached.

Action for Schools Forum

8. Following a period of consultation, to approve the methodology to allocate one off funding of £4.0m to schools from the DSG Reserve over a two year period 2015/16 and 2016.
9. The consultation will close on 20th October 2014 therefore Schools Forum will receive an update at the meeting on the 21st October before being asked to make a decision on the preferred method of allocation.

Attachments to Report

10. Appendix 1 – Summary of consultation responses received at 6th October 2014. A final update will be provided at the meeting on 21st October.

Sue Coates
Senior Principal Accountant
6th October 2014

Schools Forum 21st October 2014

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

Feedback on the Consultation on Allocation from Dudley's Dedicated Schools Grant Reserve for 2015/16 and 2016/17

Purpose of Report

1. To report consultation feedback in order that Schools Forum can approve the methodology to allocate one off funding of £4.0m to schools from the Dedicated Schools Grant reserve over a two year period 2015/16 and 2016/17.

Background

2. For the 2013/14 financial year the DSG was £234.323m. The year-end position recorded the DSG net expenditure at £230.848m. Thus the centrally retained element of the DSG was under-spent by £3.475m. When combined with remaining reserve brought forward from previous years and taking account of earmarked commitments an estimated balance remained at 31st March 2014 of £5.884m.
3. This was reported to Schools Forum on 3rd June 2014 and at the meeting Schools Forum agreed that at least £4m should be distributed to schools from the DSG reserve over a two year period (financial years 2015/16 and 2016/17); this is one off funding.
4. School Finance Regulations prescribe that any allocation to schools must be made through the local funding formula for schools therefore a full consultation has been undertaken with stakeholders. The consultation is for a six week period and will close on 20th October 2014.
5. The Directorate's priority for schools is to improve the attainment of vulnerable groups in order to narrow the achievement gap between vulnerable children and their peers. Schools are recommended to consider using their allocation from the reserve to help achieve this, for example using those interventions that have been highlighted in Ofsted guidance as being effective in narrowing the gap, namely:
 - effective use of learning mentors;
 - appropriate literacy and/or numeracy targeted support;
 - ensuring good attendance;
 - providing strong careers information, advice and guidance.

6. The factors eligible for use in order to distribute funding from the DSG reserve were discussed at Headteachers Consultative Forum – Budget Working Group (HTCF-BWG) meeting on 2nd July 2014. The recommendation from the meeting was for the allocation to be made via the Lump Sum Factor within Dudley’s school funding resource allocation formula. This will allow all schools to receive additional funding whilst not “locking in” the additional funding to the minimum funding guarantee baseline for future years.
7. Question 1 within the consultation is seeking views regarding the proposal that any allocation from the Dedicated Schools Grant Reserve for 2015/16 and 2016/17 be allocated through the Lump Sum factor, as recommended by Headteachers Consultative Forum – Budget Working Group.
8. However, as a Lump Sum factor is permitted to be set at differential values for each sector there are two options for consideration as detailed in Table 1.

Table 1 - Proposed Options for allocation through Lump Sum

<u>Option</u>	<u>Methodology</u>	<u>Value (£)</u>
Option 1	Allocate an equal amount per school across all sectors.	All schools receive £18,500 per school for two consecutive years; 2015/16 and 2016/17.
Option 2	Allocate differential amounts which are <u>broadly reflective of the relative size of schools in each sector</u> (approx ratio for mainstream primary: secondary 1.0 : 2.75 based on the average number of pupils in school in October 2013). Allocate funding to special schools Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) and maintained nursery schools at an equivalent amount to primary schools.	£14,000 per primary school and £38,500 per secondary school for two consecutive years; 2015/16 and 2016/17.

9. Dudley’s maintained nursery school receives funding as prescribed nationally through the Early Years Single Funding Formula while special schools and Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) receive funding on a place plus basis. This was discussed in detail at HTCF-BWG on 2nd July 2014 and the group supported the proposal to allocate funding from the DSG reserve to Dudley’s maintained nursery school, to Dudley’s seven special schools, and Dudley’s two PRUs at an equivalent value to that for Dudley primary schools, the rationale being that the number of pupils in these schools correlates more closely with primary schools than with secondary schools.
10. The recommendation from HTCF-BWG is for Option 2 - to allocate an additional £14,000 to each mainstream primary school, special school, PRU and maintained nursery and an additional £38,500 to each secondary school through the Lump Sum factor for 2015/16 and for 2016/17.

11. Question 2 within the consultation document is seeking views regarding the preferred Option 1 or Option 2 as detailed in Table 1 above.
12. The consultation closes on 20th October 2014 and at 6th October 17 responses were received as follows:
 - 8 maintained primary schools,
 - 3 maintained secondary schools,
 - 3 academy schools (secondary).
 - 1 special school,
 - 2 individual responses.
13. Appendix 1 provides a brief summary of the responses received in respect of Questions 1 and 2 relating to proposed changes to the local school funding formula for 2015/16 and 2016/17. A final update will be provided to Schools Forum at the meeting.

Proposal

14. The Interim Director of Children's Service is responsible for proposing and deciding on changes to the local funding formulae for Dudley schools. As part of this process, Schools Forum must be consulted and it is normal practice to discuss the proposals with Headteachers Consultative Forum – Budget Working Group.
15. Whilst the Director's decision on this matter is final, Schools Forum members (excluding non school members other than the representative of the early year's providers) are invited to vote in respect of the proposed changes outlined in Table 1. The final consultation responses, in the format of Appendix 1, will be updated at the meeting before a final decision is reached.

Finance

16. The funding of schools is prescribed by the Department for Education (DfE) through the School Finance and Early Years (England) Regulations 2013.
17. Schools Forums are regulated by the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012.
18. From 1 April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct grant: Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

Law

19. 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

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

Recommendation

21. Those Schools Forum members that are eligible to vote on this matter, which excludes the non school members other than the representative of the early year's providers, are invited to:
- Receive an updated and final summary of the consultation responses in Appendix 1 at the meeting and from that information vote in respect of the two options proposed to allocate £4m from the Dedicated Schools Grant reserve over the 2015/16 and 2016/17 financial years. From this information the Interim Director of Children's Services will made a final decision.



Pauline Sharratt
Interim Director of Children's Services

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

Appendix 1

Summary of Consultation Responses Received at 6th October regarding the Allocation from Dudley's Dedicated Schools Grant Reserve for 2015/16 and 2016/17

Qn No	Detail	Response / Comments	Proposal
1	Do you agree that any allocation from Dudley's Dedicated Schools Grant Reserve for 2015/16 and 2016/17 be allocated through the Lump Sum factor within the Dudley school funding resource allocation formula?	<p>Yes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 primary schools. • 3 Academy (secondary) schools • 2 secondary schools • 1 special school • 2 other. <p>No Opinion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 secondary school. 	To allocate funding from the DSG Reserve through the Lump Sum factor within Dudley's resource allocation formula in 2015/16 and 2016/17.
2	Option 1- £18,500 for all schools or; Option 2 - £14,000 for mainstream primary schools, special schools PRUs and maintained nursery school and £38,500 for mainstream secondary schools?	<p>Option 1 - 7 in favour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 primary schools • 1 special school • 1 other <p>Option 2 – 10 in favour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 secondary schools • 3 Academy (secondary) schools • 3 primary schools • 1 other. 	The Interim Director of Children's Services will make a decision regarding Option 1 or 2 after Schools Forum members have indicated their preference through the voting process at the meeting on 21 st October.

Schools Forum 21st October 2014

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

Schools Revenue Funding Arrangements in 2015/16 – Growth Fund

Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval from Schools Forum in respect of the proposed criteria and methodology to be applied in respect of the allocation of funding to schools from a centrally retained Growth Fund Contingency in 2015/16.

Budget Working Group Discussed

2. Yes – 15th October 2014.

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. Schools Forum can approve the creation of a fund for significant pupil growth in order to support the local authority's duty for place planning (basic need) and agree the criteria for maintained schools and academies to access this fund. The Growth Fund contingency would be set aside and centrally retained from within the Dedicated Schools Grant before allocation to schools.

Action for Schools Forum

6. To approve the proposed criteria and methodology to be applied in respect of allocation of funding to schools from the Growth Fund Contingency in 2015/16 in relation to rising pupil numbers in Dudley primary schools.

Attachments to Report

7. None.

Sue Coates
Senior Principal Accountant
6th October 2014

Schools Forum 21st October 2014

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

Schools Revenue Funding Arrangements in 2015/16 – Growth Fund

Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval from Schools Forum in respect of the proposed criteria and methodology to be applied in respect of the allocation of funding to schools from a centrally retained Growth Fund Contingency in 2015/16.

Background

2. Local Authorities are under a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in their area, promote high educational standards and ensure fair access to educational opportunity, promote diversity and increase parental choice.
3. Dudley is continuing to experience a consistent increase in the numbers of primary aged children requiring a school place. Until recently primary pupil numbers had been falling year on year due to a decrease in live births which has been ongoing since 1990. This increase in the number of babies being born coupled with an increase in inward migration to the Borough is putting pressure on the demand for primary school places.
4. In order to start to meet the demand for additional places a number of schools have already been identified for proposed expansion. The schools that have been selected are those that met a number of criteria including whether the school was in the right geographical location, whether it was popular with local families, whether it was easy to add more capacity and whether it was well placed to provide a good education to additional pupils.
5. Based on projected pupil numbers provided by Dudley's place planning team the estimated number of pupils in primary schools is expected to increase from 25,720 in September 2014 to 26,107 in September 2015 representing an increase in the primary school population of approximately 400 pupils.
6. Additional places have been created at a number of primary schools from September to meet the predicted demand for places, however as the local authority's Dedicated Schools Grant funding for a financial year is based on the number of pupils in school at the previous October School Census date there is a time lag between a school admitting pupils at the start of an academic year and receiving funding for those pupils from April the following year; hence

schools financial year funding is also allocated on a lagged pupil basis which is broadly workable when pupil numbers are static.

7. The local authority has determined that contingency funds should be made available to support this significant in year increase in pupils for 2015/16. It is proposed that funding would be made available from the Dedicated Schools Grant reserve rather than a top slice from the local Schools Budget which would have a financial impact upon all schools.

Growth Fund

8. The 2013 Schools Finance and Early Years Regulations provides for a provision in respect of a Growth Fund which may be created by top-slicing the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) to support schools which are required to provide extra places in order to meet basic need within the authority.
9. Approval of both the criteria and methodology to be applied in respect of the additional funding to schools will be required from Schools Forum. The local authority will also need to consult the Schools Forum on the total sum to be top-sliced from each phase and should regularly update the Forum on the use of the funding.
10. Any unspent growth funding remaining at the year-end should be reported to Schools Forum. Funding may be carried forward to the following funding period as with any other centrally retained budget, and can be used specifically for growth if the authority wishes.

Dudley's Growth Fund Contingency Proposal

11. To address the significant increase in pupils forecast in the primary sector of some Dudley schools it is proposed to create a growth fund for 2015/16 by allocating funds from the DSG reserve to support schools which are required to provide extra places from September 2015.
12. The estimated budget required in respect of Dudley's growth fund will be calculated in January 2015, in preparation for the 2015/16 financial year; it is likely to be around £0.3m.
13. The actual re-imburement to schools will be calculated in September 2015 when the additional pupils admitted to a school at the request of the local authority have been determined. The funding allocated will cover the period from the start of the academic year until the school automatically receives funding in their school budget share in the following year.
14. The proposed criteria for access to funding from the growth fund and methodology to be applied in calculating the amount for each school are detailed in Table 1 for Schools Forum approval.

Table 1 -Proposal for Dudley Criteria and Methodology to be Applied

Criteria

Additional funding will be made available to Dudley schools in any of the circumstances:

- The local authority carries out a formal consultation and approves an increase in the capacity of a school in accordance with School Organisation legislation.
- The local authority requests schools to increase their published admission numbers (PAN) as necessary and publishes on behalf of maintained schools an increased PAN in accordance with the Schools Admissions Code.
- The local authority requests schools to admit significant additional pupils as a consequence of a school closure.
- The local authority requests a school to admit pupils above its PAN to meet localised demand.
- No allocation will be made to a school where the school admits over PAN at their own choice.

Methodology

- Additional funding will be made available in relation to the actual increase in overall pupils (Reception to year 6) at September 2015.
- The allocation will be based upon the AWPU (Age Weighted Pupil Unit) and will be relevant to the key stage for the pupils admitted to school. This will reflect the period September to March for maintained schools and from September to August for academy schools.

Finance

15. The funding of schools is prescribed by the Department for Education (DfE) through the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013.
16. Schools Forums are regulated by the regulated by the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012.
17. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct grant; Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

Law

18. 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

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

Recommendation

20. Schools Forum to:

- Note the contents of the report regarding Dudley's projected primary pupil number increases;
- To approve the Interim Director of Children's Services proposal to create a Growth Fund for 2015/16;
- To agree the criteria and methodology in respect of Dudley's growth fund for 2015/16 in line with Table1 of this report.



Pauline Sharratt
Interim Director of Children's Services

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

Schools Forum 21st October 2014

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

DfE Section 251 Planned Expenditure Benchmarking Data for 2014/15

Purpose of Report

1. To advise Schools Forum of the DfE's national Section 251 statistical benchmarking data relating to planned expenditure for the financial year 2014/15.

Budget Working Group Discussed

2. Yes – 15th October 2014.

Schools Forum Role and Responsibilities

3. National regulations govern the composition, constitution and procedures of Schools Forums.
4. Schools Forums generally have a consultative role. However, there are situations in which they have decision-making powers.
5. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct Department for Education (DfE) grant: the Dedicated School Grant (DSG).
6. 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.
7. The Education Funding Agency's best practice guide advises that Schools Forum have a role in the challenge and scrutiny function whereby the Forum may be asked to agree to proposals from their local authority that will have an effect on all schools and academies in the local area. The extent to which Schools Forums can scrutinise and challenge such proposals is an important aspect of their effectiveness.
8. The Authority may consult the forum on such other matters concerning the funding of schools as they see fit.

Action for Schools Forum

9. The Section 251 benchmarking statistics are issued annually by the DfE. They relate to the planned expenditure for a particular financial year and cover all expenditure of the Local Authority; both the Dedicated Schools Grant and the Local Authority's General Grants and Income generating activities.

10. Forum should be aware of how the local authority's planned expenditure compares to other local authorities; particularly statistical and regional neighbours.

Attachments to Report

11. Section 251 Planned Expenditure Benchmarking Data for 2014/15.
 - a. Appendix 1a and 1b -Year-On-Year Table – calculations and underlying data for statistical neighbours and regional neighbours, respectively.
 - b. Appendix 2a and 2b - per capita all lines net for statistical neighbours and regional neighbours, respectively.
 - c. Appendix 3a and 3b - Additional Information Table – calculations and underlying data, for statistical neighbours and regional neighbours, respectively.

Karen Cocker
Children's Services Finance Manager
6th October 2014

Schools Forum 21st October 2014

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

DfE Section 251 Planned Expenditure Benchmarking Data for 2014/15

Purpose of Report

1. To advise Schools Forum of the DfE's national Section 251 statistical benchmarking data relating to planned expenditure for the financial year 2014/15.

Background

2. The DfE's benchmarking tables of planned expenditure attached at Appendix 1, 2 and 3 are drawn from the published Section 251 budget statements for the 2014/15 financial year and are primarily aimed at schools forums and local authorities (LAs).
3. The benchmarking tables are published as Official Statistics as they are:
 - nationally representative;
 - a structured collection system that is part of a series; and
 - subject to sound statistical principles.
4. Some of the Department for Education's Financial Data Collection budget statement lines (also referred to as Section 251 budget statement) have been divided by population figures rather than pupil numbers. This means that in order to be more accurate in the description of the tables, all tables are called "per capita", to reflect that some lines are divided by pupil numbers, while others are divided by population.
5. This year, the information provided by LAs relating to those items of expenditure for which the LA only has responsibility towards the schools it maintains, gives full-year budgets for schools which were maintained as at 31 March 2014, irrespective of if some of these were known to be converting to academy status during the course of the year.
6. The layout of the tables mirror those published in 2013/14, showing the minimum, maximum, median and mean for each column.
7. The DfE issue a set of statistical benchmarking data to cover:
 - Year on year planned expenditure variance;
 - Net expenditure planned per capita;
 - Gross expenditure planned per capita;
 - Additional supplementary information.

Year-On-Year Table – calculations and underlying data (Appendix 1)

8. The table provides information on percentage changes in authorities' planned expenditure on education from 2013/14 to 2014/15 for selected expenditure categories.
- Schools Budget
 - High needs budget
 - Contingencies
 - LA Budget
 - Statutory / regulatory duties
 - Other strategic management
 - School improvement including Education Development Plan
 - Home to school/college transport

Per Capita Tables – calculations and underlying data (Appendix 2)

9. There are two per capita tables:
- per capita all lines gross;
 - per capita all lines net.
10. Appendix 2 relates to the per capita table net which is the most useful benchmarking indicator.
11. The table will contain each individual Section 251 budget LA Table line divided through either by:
- a count of pupils aged 3 to 19 in maintained schools only in the LA;
 - a count of pupils aged 3 to 19 in maintained schools and recoupment academies in the LA;
 - a count of pupils aged 3 to 19 in maintained schools and all academies in the LA;
 - the resident population aged 0-17 in the LA; or
 - the resident population aged 0-19 in the LA.
12. The divisor used will be the count which is most appropriate for the expenditure line.

Additional Information Table – calculations and underlying data (Appendix 3)

13. This table provides additional information for Schools Forums and authorities and draws data from a number of Section 251 tables and other sources.
- Dedicated Schools Grant
 - 2014/15 DSG Schools block unit of funding (SBUF) per pupil
 - Planned expenditure in addition to DSG in 2014/-15
 - Minimum Funding Guarantee for primary and secondary schools
 - Home to school transport: SEN transport expenditure
 - Total children looked after
 - Total safeguarding children and young people's safety

Finance

14. The funding of schools is prescribed by the Department for Education (DfE) through the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013.
15. Schools Forums are regulated by the regulated by the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012.
16. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct grant; Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

Law

17. 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

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

Recommendation

19. Schools Forum to note the recent publication of the national Section 251 statistical benchmarking data relating to planned expenditure for the financial year 2014/15, as attached at Appendix 1, 2 and 3 and highlight any issues for further discussion.



Pauline Sharratt
Interim Director of Children's Services

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

LA Benchmarking Tables - Year on Year Table

14-15 Year on Year Table
Statistical Neighbours

To print use the buttons below.

	Schools Budget Items 2013-14 to 2014-15		LA Budget Items 2013-14 to 2014-15					Pupil Numbers 2013-14 - 2014-15			
	Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5	Col 6	Col 7	Col 8	Col 9	Col 10	Col 11
	High needs budget (1)	Contingencies (2)	Statutory/Regulatory duties - education (3)	Other strategic management (4)	School Improvement (5)	Home to school transport (6)		Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools only	Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools & academies	Total population aged between 0-19	
ENGLAND - Average size of category in year (median) (£m)	20	0							N/A	N/A	N/A
ENGLAND - Average (mean) (%)	2%	-17%							-4%	2%	0%
ENGLAND - Average (median)	4%	-7%							-3%	2%	0%
ENGLAND - Minimum	-66%	-100%							-30%	-1%	-9%
ENGLAND - Maximum	96%	647%							6%	6%	5%
Average (median)	2%	-21%							-2%	2%	-1%
Minimum	-7%	-100%							-24%	-1%	-2%
Maximum	17%	1%							0%	3%	1%
332 Dudley	-1%	-26%							-8%	-1%	-1%
359 Wigan	5%	-16%							-1%	1%	-1%
371 Doncaster	-3%	-							-2%	2%	-2%
891 Nottinghamshire	5%	-37%							0%	3%	0%
883 Thurrock	11%	-							-24%	3%	1%
372 Rotherham	-7%	1%							-17%	2%	-1%
888 Lancashire	2%	-26%							0%	0%	-1%
830 Derbyshire	-6%	0%							0%	0%	-1%
894 Telford & Wrekin	0%	-							-8%	2%	0%
808 Stockton-on-Tees	17%	-15%							-16%	2%	-1%
350 Bolton	2%	-100%							-1%	2%	0%

1) using lines 1.2.1 to 1.2.10 in 2013-14 and lines 1.2.1 to 1.2.3 and 1.2.5 to 1.2.11 in 2014-15.

LA Benchmarking Tables - Year on Year Table

14-15 Year on Year Table
West Midlands

To print use the buttons below.

	Schools Budget Items 2013-14 to 2014-15		LA Budget Items 2013-14 to 2014-15					Pupil Numbers 2013-14 - 2014-15			
	Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5	Col 6	Col 7	Col 8	Col 9	Col 10	Col 11
	High needs budget (1)	Contingencies (2)	Statutory/Regulatory duties - education (3)	Other strategic management (4)	School Improvement (5)	Home to school transport (6)		Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools only	Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools & academies	Total population aged between 0-19	
ENGLAND - Average size of category in year (median) (£m)	20	0	1	2	1	3		N/A	N/A	N/A	
ENGLAND - Average (mean) (%)	2%	-17%	-13%	0%	-12%	2%		-4%	2%	0%	
ENGLAND - Average (median)	4%	-7%	-8%	0%	-11%	0%		-3%	2%	0%	
ENGLAND - Minimum	-66%	-100%	-235%	-100%	-1380%	-39%		-30%	-1%	-9%	
ENGLAND - Maximum	96%	647%	1066%	2973%	208%	711%		6%	6%	5%	
Average (median)	5%	-19%	-11%	0%	-19%	0%		-5%	2%	0%	
Minimum	-66%	-100%	-61%	-25%	-64%	-36%		-23%	-1%	-2%	
Maximum	41%	13%	48%	27%	5%	16%		-1%	4%	2%	
330 Birmingham	13%	-11%	-29%	27%	-62%	4%		-8%	3%	0%	
331 Coventry	4%	-	-9%	12%	-56%	-1%		-4%	3%	2%	
332 Dudley	-1%	-26%	14%	-1%	-10%	1%		-8%	-1%	-1%	
884 Herefordshire	12%	-	-12%	-25%	-21%	7%		-2%	2%	-1%	
333 Sandwell	14%	-32%	-26%	-	-20%	5%		-3%	3%	1%	
893 Shropshire	41%	-	-61%	0%	-45%	-9%		-12%	-1%	-2%	
334 Solihull	11%	-3%	16%	2%	5%	0%		-2%	2%	0%	
860 Staffordshire	5%	13%	48%	-7%	0%	8%		-4%	0%	-2%	
861 Stoke-on-Trent	6%	-59%	-51%	0%	-4%	-1%		-23%	4%	0%	
894 Telford & Wrekin	0%	-	-5%	5%	-1%	-2%		-8%	2%	0%	
335 Walsall	-1%	-50%	-31%	3%	-61%	-36%		-1%	1%	-1%	
937 Warwickshire	3%	-2%	-27%	0%	-5%	16%		-6%	2%	-1%	
336 Wolverhampton	-66%	-100%	-10%	-1%	-64%	-2%		-8%	2%	0%	
885 Worcestershire	11%	-4%	0%	-11%	-18%	0%		-3%	2%	-1%	

1) using lines 1.2.1 to 1.2.10 in 2013-14 and lines 1.2.1 to 1.2.3 and 1.2.5 to 1.2.11 in 2014-15.

LA Benchmarking Tables
Per Capita Table (Net)

14-15 Budget LA Table (Net) £ per capita

Statistical Neighbours

To print use the buttons below.

	Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5	Col 6	Col 7	Col 8	Col 9	Col 10	Col 11
	1.0.1 Individual Schools Budget (before Academy recruitment)**	1.1.1 Contingencies*	1.1.2 Behaviour support services*	1.1.3 Support to UPEG and bilingual learners*	1.1.4 Free school meals eligibility*	1.1.5 Insurance*	1.1.6 Museum and Library services*	1.1.7 Licences/subscriptions*	1.1.8 Staff costs – supply cover excluding cover for facility time*	1.1.9 Staff costs – supply cover for facility time*	DEDELEGATED ITEMS*
ENGLAND - Average (mean)	£4,361	£9	£6	£6	£1	£3	£0	£2	£6	£2	£34
ENGLAND - Average (median)	£4,300	£5	£2	£2	£1	£0	£0	£0	£1	£2	£28
ENGLAND - Minimum	£3,720	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
ENGLAND - Maximum	£6,851	£76	£57	£125	£10	£40	£11	£29	£26	£8	£200
Average (median)	£4,420	£5	£2	£0	£1	£0	£0	£0	£2	£2	£27
Minimum	£3,946	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Maximum	£4,610	£10	£22	£12	£3	£15	£6	£3	£23	£5	£54
332 Dudley	£4,434	£5	£7	£6	£0	£0	£6	£0	£8	£5	£36
359 Wigan	£4,520	£8	£17	£12	£0	£0	£0	£2	£2	£5	£46
371 Doncaster	£4,307	£6	£0	£12	£3	£1	£4	£0	£13	£2	£41
891 Nottinghamshire	£3,946	£1	£0	£4	£1	£0	£0	£0	£3	£0	£9
883 Thurrock	£4,335	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
372 Rotherham	£4,610	£3	£6	£0	£1	£0	£0	£0	£0	£2	£12
888 Lancashire	£4,517	£8	£0	£0	£0	£0	£1	£1	£2	£2	£14
830 Derbyshire	£4,176	£10	£0	£0	£0	£15	£2	£0	£10	£3	£40
894 Telford & Wrekin	£4,329	£0	£2	£0	£1	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£3
808 Stockton-on-Tees	£4,420	£7	£9	£4	£2	£0	£0	£3	£0	£1	£27
350 Bolton	£4,423	£0	£22	£0	£1	£0	£6	£0	£23	£0	£54

- 1) Pupil Divisors Used.
 - * Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools only.
 - ** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools and recruitment academies only.
 - *** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools & all academies.
 - **** Total population aged between 0-17.
 - ***** Total population aged between 0-19.
- 2) The national mean is calculated as the Total Budget (£)/ Total Pupils.
- 3) The median shows an average LA amount of spending (£).
- 4) England figures do not include data for City of London or Isles of Scilly.

**LA Benchmarking Table:
Per Capita Table (net)**

14-15 Budget LA Table (Net) £ per capita

Statistical Neighbours

To print use the buttons below.

	Col 12	Col 13	Col 14	Col 15	Col 16	Col 17	Col 18	Col 19	Col 20	Col 21	Col 22
	1.2.1 Top up funding - maintained providers*****	1.2.2 Top-up funding – academies, free schools and colleges*****	1.2.3 Top-up and other funding – non-maintained and independent providers*****	1.2.4 Additional high needs targeted funding for mainstream schools and academies*****	1.2.5 SEN support services*****	1.2.6 Hospital education services*****	1.2.7 Other alternative provision services*****	1.2.8 Support for inclusion *****	1.2.9 Special schools and PRUs in financial difficulty*****	1.2.10 PFI/ BSF costs at special schools and AP/ PRUs*****	1.2.11 Direct payments (SEN and disability)*****
ENGLAND - Average (mean)	£130	£30	£69	£4	£34	£3	£10	£13	£0	£0	£0
ENGLAND - Average (median)	£123	£25	£66	£1	£31	£1	£6	£7	£0	£0	£0
ENGLAND - Minimum	£12	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
ENGLAND - Maximum	£344	£168	£207	£99	£110	£46	£53	£74	£7	£12	£36
Average (median)	£114	£16	£61	£0	£35	£1	£4	£7	£0	£0	£0
Minimum	£84	£2	£41	£0	£12	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Maximum	£159	£146	£106	£11	£52	£6	£25	£17	£1	£3	£0
332 Dudley	£114	£2	£55	£0	£52	£6	£25	£5	£1	£0	£0
359 Wigan	£119	£3	£49	£2	£35	£6	£0	£4	£0	£0	£0
371 Doncaster	£98	£16	£106	£0	£12	£4	£4	£3	£0	£0	£0
891 Nottinghamshire	£121	£19	£68	£0	£16	£0	£6	£15	£0	£0	£0
883 Thurrock	£107	£146	£82	£11	£50	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
372 Rotherham	£114	£4	£41	£0	£29	£0	£2	£3	£0	£0	£0
888 Lancashire	£115	£19	£62	£0	£18	£2	£17	£7	£0	£3	£0
830 Derbyshire	£137	£13	£52	£3	£49	£1	£15	£17	£0	£0	£0
894 Telford & Wrekin	£113	£18	£64	£2	£20	£1	£8	£9	£0	£0	£0
808 Stockton-on-Tees	£84	£103	£55	£0	£39	£1	£0	£7	£0	£0	£0
350 Bolton	£159	£7	£61	£2	£37	£0	£0	£15	£0	£0	£0

- 1) Pupil Divisors Used.
 - * Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools
 - ** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools
 - *** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools
 - **** Total population aged between 0-17.
 - ***** Total population aged between 0-19.
- 2) The national mean is calculated as the Total Buc
- 3) The median shows an average LA amount of spi
- 4) England figures do not include data for City of Lc

**LA Benchmarking Tables
Per Capita Table (Net)**

14-15 Budget LA Table (Net) £ per capita

Statistical Neighbours

To print use the buttons below.

	Col 23	Col 24	Col 25	Col 26	Col 27	Col 28	Col 29	Col 30	Col 31	Col 32	Col 33
	1.2.12 Carbon reduction commitment allowances (PRUs)*****	HIGH NEEDS BUDGET*****	1.3.1 Central expenditure on children under 5*****	1.4.1 Contribution to combined budgets**	1.4.2 School admissions**	1.4.3 Servicing of schools forums**	1.4.4 Termination of employment costs**	1.4.5 Falling Rolls Fund**	1.4.6 Capital expenditure from revenue (CERA)**	1.4.7 Prudential borrowing costs**	1.4.8 Fees to independent schools without SEN**
ENGLAND - Average (mean)	£0	£293	£33	£25	£9	£1	£5	£1	£14	£4	£1
ENGLAND - Average (median)	£0	£293	£25	£15	£8	£1	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
ENGLAND - Minimum	£0	£81	£1	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
ENGLAND - Maximum	£3	£575	£177	£117	£42	£27	£41	£19	£159	£69	£51
Average (median)	£0	£245	£17	£10	£7	£1	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Minimum	£0	£192	£2	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Maximum	£0	£397	£74	£58	£15	£3	£16	£19	£33	£1	£2
332 Dudley	£0	£261	£71	£7	£7	£0	£1	£0	£1	£0	£2
359 Wigan	£0	£218	£2	£0	£3	£1	£0	£2	£0	£0	£0
371 Doncaster	£0	£243	£17	£7	£7	£1	£0	£2	£0	£0	£0
891 Nottinghamshire	£0	£244	£56	£21	£8	£0	£8	£0	£3	£0	£0
883 Thurrock	£0	£397	£6	£33	£10	£3	£16	£0	£0	£0	£0
372 Rotherham	£0	£192	£3	£58	£0	£0	£4	£0	£0	£0	£0
888 Lancashire	£0	£245	£24	£10	£5	£1	£3	£0	£0	£1	£0
830 Derbyshire	£0	£286	£14	£25	£4	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
894 Telford & Wrekin	£0	£234	£13	£1	£15	£1	£0	£19	£23	£0	£0
808 Stockton-on-Tees	£0	£288	£74	£5	£7	£1	£0	£0	£33	£0	£0
350 Bolton	£0	£281	£33	£14	£5	£0	£0	£0	£31	£0	£0

- 1) Pupil Divisors Used.
 - * Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools
 - ** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools
 - *** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools
 - **** Total population aged between 0-17.
 - ***** Total population aged between 0-19.
- 2) The national mean is calculated as the Total Bux
- 3) The median shows an average LA amount of sp
- 4) England figures do not include data for City of Lc

LA Benchmarking Tables
Per Capita Table (Net)

14-15 Budget LA Table (Net) £ per capita

Statistical Neighbours

To print use the buttons below.

	Col 34	Col 35	Col 36	Col 37	Col 38	Col 39	Col 40	Col 41	Col 42	Col 43	Col 44
	1.4.9 Equal pay - back pay**	1.4.10 Pupil growth/ Infant class sizes**	1.4.11 SEN transport**	1.4.12 Exceptions agreed by Secretary of State**	1.4.13 Other Items**	1.5.1 Other Specific Grants**	1.6.1 TOTAL SCHOOLS BUDGET (before Academy recoupment)**	2.0.1 Therapies and other health related services*	2.0.2 Central support services*	2.0.3 Education welfare service*	2.0.4 School improvement*
ENGLAND - Average (mean)	£2	£20	£3	£1	£2	£0	£4,996	£2	£8	£14	£32
ENGLAND - Average (median)	£0	£14	£0	£0	£2	£0	£4,918	£0	£5	£14	£29
ENGLAND - Minimum	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£4,234	£0	-£10	£0	£0
ENGLAND - Maximum	£56	£115	£49	£92	£41	£45	£8,165	£43	£78	£200	£217
Average (median)	£0	£8	£0	£0	£0	£0	£4,968	£0	£8	£12	£29
Minimum	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£4,466	£0	-£1	£2	£11
Maximum	£0	£29	£49	£3	£3	£0	£5,160	£10	£27	£32	£82
332 Dudley	£0	£0	£0	£0	£2	£0	£4,991	£0	£12	£12	£38
359 Wigan	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£4,916	£0	-£1	£18	£14
371 Doncaster	£0	£11	£0	£0	£3	£0	£4,752	£0	£8	£29	£37
891 Nottinghamshire	£0	£6	£15	£0	£3	£0	£4,466	£0	£21	£2	£32
883 Thurrock	£0	£29	£49	£0	£0	£0	£5,160	£0	£6	£32	£82
372 Rotherham	£0	£9	£2	£0	£3	£0	£4,968	£0	£27	£19	£25
888 Lancashire	£0	£8	£0	£0	£0	£0	£4,978	£10	£0	£11	£11
830 Derbyshire	£0	£19	£1	£3	£0	£0	£4,724	£1	£12	£2	£18
894 Telford & Wrekin	£0	£4	£0	£0	£0	£0	£4,810	£1	£9	£7	£29
808 Stockton-on-Tees	£0	£6	£3	£0	£0	£0	£5,075	£0	£7	£17	£48
350 Bolton	£0	£9	£0	£0	£2	£0	£5,005	£1	£3	£2	£16

- 1) Pupil Divisors Used.
 - * Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools
 - ** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools
 - *** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools
 - **** Total population aged between 0-17.
 - ***** Total population aged between 0-19.
- 2) The national mean is calculated as the Total Budget
- 3) The median shows an average LA amount of spend
- 4) England figures do not include data for City of London

LA Benchmarking Tables
Per Capita Table (Net)

14-15 Budget LA Table (Net) £ per capita

Statistical Neighbours

To print use the buttons below.

	Col 45	Col 46	Col 47	Col 48	Col 49	Col 50	Col 51	Col 52	Col 53	Col 54	Col 55
	2.0.5 Asset management - education*	2.0.6 Statutory/Regulatory duties - education*	2.0.7 Premature retirement cost/Redundancy costs (new provisions)*	2.0.8 Monitoring national curriculum assessment*	2.1.1 Educational psychology service***	2.1.2 SEN administration, assessment and coordination and monitoring****	2.1.3 Parent partnership, guidance and information***	2.1.4 Home to school transport: SEN transport expenditure(0 - 25)***	2.1.5 Home to school transport: other home to school transport expenditure***	2.1.6 Supply of school places***	2.2.1 Young people's learning and development***
ENGLAND - Average (mean)	£12	£44	£6	£1	£15	£12	£2	£71	£49	£3	£4
ENGLAND - Average (median)	£6	£42	£0	£0	£14	£12	£2	£70	£17	£2	£2
ENGLAND - Minimum	£0	-£11	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
ENGLAND - Maximum	£120	£437	£51	£13	£48	£39	£19	£163	£229	£29	£57
Average (median)	£5	£37	£0	£0	£12	£9	£2	£69	£33	£2	£2
Minimum	£0	-£11	£0	£0	£0	£1	£0	£0	£1	£0	£0
Maximum	£40	£437	£12	£3	£23	£20	£14	£92	£52	£14	£5
332 Dudley	£11	£37	£0	£3	£12	£10	£2	£64	£17	£1	£5
359 Wigan	£0	£29	£12	£0	£18	£20	£1	£92	£1	£14	£2
371 Doncaster	£0	£61	£0	£0	£13	£10	£0	£68	£34	£1	£3
891 Nottinghamshire	£5	£7	£0	£0	£0	£8	£1	£39	£51	£9	£0
883 Thurrock	£40	£437	£0	£0	£16	£1	£14	£0	£32	£0	£0
372 Rotherham	£2	-£11	£0	£0	£5	£6	£2	£47	£7	£4	£0
888 Lancashire	£4	£20	£9	£0	£11	£17	£3	£87	£52	£3	£0
830 Derbyshire	£5	£10	£2	£0	£12	£9	£2	£69	£47	£0	£3
894 Telford & Wrekin	£5	£61	£7	£1	£15	£11	£2	£71	£35	£2	£2
808 Stockton-on-Tees	£5	£85	£10	£0	£23	£9	£2	£69	£33	£6	£0
350 Bolton	£4	£87	£0	£0	£5	£5	£0	£69	£4	£1	£4

- 1) Pupil Divisors Used.
 - * Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools
 - ** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools
 - *** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools
 - **** Total population aged between 0-17.
 - ***** Total population aged between 0-19.
- 2) The national mean is calculated as the Total Buc
- 3) The median shows an average LA amount of sp
- 4) England figures do not include data for City of Lc

**LA Benchmarking Tables
Per Capita Table (Net)**

14-15 Budget LA Table (Net) £ per capita

Statistical Neighbours

To print use the buttons below.

	Col 56	Col 57	Col 58	Col 59	Col 60	Col 61	Col 62	Col 63	Col 64	Col 65	Col 66
	2.2.2 Adult and Community learning***	2.2.3 Pension costs***	2.2.4 Joint use arrangements***	2.2.5 Insurance***	2.3.1 Other Specific Grant***	2.4.1 Total Other education and community budget for maintained schools only*	2.4.1 Total Other education and community budget for maintained schools and academies***	3.0.1 Funding for individual Sure Start Children's Centres****	3.0.2 Funding for local authority provided or commissioned area wide services delivered through Sure Start Children's Centres****	3.0.3 Funding on local authority management costs relating to Sure Start Children's Centres****	3.0.4 Other early years funding****
ENGLAND - Average (mean)	£5	£33	£0	£1	£0	£118	£195	£52	£8	£4	£14
ENGLAND - Average (median)	£1	£30	£0	£0	£0	£111	£172	£50	£2	£2	£12
ENGLAND - Minimum	-£8	£0	£0	£0	-£7	£34	£68	£0	£0	£0	-£67
ENGLAND - Maximum	£90	£132	£13	£8	£22	£596	£393	£184	£156	£40	£62
Average (median)	£0	£44	£0	£0	£0	£112	£176	£62	£0	£1	£13
Minimum	-£3	£0	£0	£0	-£1	£50	£102	£0	£0	£0	£8
Maximum	£90	£89	£5	£8	£0	£596	£241	£94	£19	£36	£39
332 Dudley	£1	£39	£0	£0	£0	£112	£151	£62	£1	£4	£13
359 Wigan	£0	£89	£0	£3	£0	£73	£241	£35	£19	£1	£17
371 Doncaster	-£1	£78	£0	£0	£0	£135	£205	£66	£0	£0	£14
891 Nottinghamshire	£1	£44	£4	£3	£0	£66	£160	£94	£0	£2	£12
883 Thurrock	£90	£0	£0	£0	£0	£596	£154	£0	£0	£36	£39
372 Rotherham	£0	£31	£0	£0	£0	£62	£102	£58	£1	£1	£10
888 Lancashire	£1	£65	£0	£2	£0	£65	£239	£78	£3	£3	£13
830 Derbyshire	-£3	£52	£1	£0	£0	£50	£193	£43	£0	£2	£8
894 Telford & Wrekin	£20	£51	£5	£3	£0	£121	£216	£70	£0	£0	£31
808 Stockton-on-Tees	£0	£34	£0	£0	£0	£174	£176	£66	£0	£1	£13
350 Bolton	£0	£28	£0	£8	-£1	£114	£122	£51	£0	£0	£12

- 1) Pupil Divisors Used.
 - * Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools
 - ** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools
 - *** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools
 - **** Total population aged between 0-17.
 - ***** Total population aged between 0-19.
- 2) The national mean is calculated as the Total Buc
- 3) The median shows an average LA amount of sp
- 4) England figures do not include data for City of Lc

**LA Benchmarking Tables
Per Capita Table (Net)**

14-15 Budget LA Table (Net) £ per capita

Statistical Neighbours

To print use the buttons below.

	Col 67	Col 68	Col 69	Col 70	Col 71	Col 72	Col 73	Col 74	Col 75	Col 76	Col 77
	3.0.5 Total Sure Start Children's Centres and Early Years Funding****	3.1.1 Residential care****	3.1.2 Fostering services****	3.1.3 Adoption services****	3.1.4 Special guardianship support****	3.1.5 Other children looked after services****	3.1.6 Short breaks (respite) for looked after disabled children****	3.1.7 Children placed with family and friends****	3.1.8 Education of looked after children****	3.1.9 Leaving care support services****	3.1.10 Asylum seeker services children****
ENGLAND - Average (mean)	£78	£73	£122	£22	£10	£16	£5	£6	£3	£19	£2
ENGLAND - Average (median)	£73	£71	£124	£22	£9	£11	£1	£4	£2	£19	£0
ENGLAND - Minimum	£11	£14	£53	£2	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£-4
ENGLAND - Maximum	£263	£281	£286	£74	£36	£136	£42	£33	£17	£81	£17
Average (median)	£79	£89	£140	£19	£10	£9	£1	£5	£5	£19	£0
Minimum	£53	£61	£89	£13	£7	£0	£0	£0	£0	£3	£0
Maximum	£108	£180	£211	£43	£16	£20	£25	£23	£9	£44	£3
332 Dudley	£79	£145	£211	£14	£7	£17	£3	£23	£5	£17	£0
359 Wigan	£72	£89	£115	£19	£10	£8	£0	£9	£5	£19	£0
371 Doncaster	£81	£64	£191	£43	£16	£9	£0	£0	£8	£44	£0
891 Nottinghamshire	£108	£105	£140	£28	£12	£14	£0	£0	£2	£9	£0
883 Thurrock	£74	£121	£207	£14	£7	£16	£0	£0	£0	£16	£3
372 Rotherham	£71	£82	£141	£43	£13	£0	£0	£2	£9	£21	£0
888 Lancashire	£97	£63	£126	£13	£8	£20	£1	£5	£2	£3	£0
830 Derbyshire	£53	£61	£89	£17	£14	£9	£5	£0	£0	£29	£0
894 Telford & Wrekin	£101	£120	£139	£15	£8	£1	£2	£11	£2	£16	£0
808 Stockton-on-Tees	£80	£180	£179	£20	£11	£0	£14	£7	£6	£20	£0
350 Bolton	£64	£78	£113	£21	£10	£2	£25	£12	£5	£29	£0

- 1) Pupil Divisors Used.
 - * Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools
 - ** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools
 - *** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools
 - **** Total population aged between 0-17.
 - ***** Total population aged between 0-19.
- 2) The national mean is calculated as the Total Buc
- 3) The median shows an average LA amount of sp
- 4) England figures do not include data for City of Lc

**LA Benchmarking Table.
Per Capita Table (Net)**

14-15 Budget LA Table (Net) £ per capita

Statistical Neighbours

To print use the buttons below.

	Col 78	Col 79	Col 80	Col 81	Col 82	Col 83	Col 84	Col 85	Col 86	Col 87	Col 88
	3.1.11 Total Children Looked After****	3.2.1 Other children and families services****	3.3.1 Social work (including LA functions in relation to child protection)****	3.3.2 Commissioning and Children's Services Strategy****	3.3.3 Local Safeguarding Children Board****	3.3.4 Total Safeguarding Children and Young People's Services****	3.4.1 Direct payments****	3.4.2 Short breaks (respite) for disabled children****	3.4.3 Other support for disabled children****	3.4.4 Targeted family support****	3.4.5 Universal family support****
ENGLAND - Average (mean)	£277	£7	£138	£21	£2	£161	£7	£17	£3	£41	£6
ENGLAND - Average (median)	£281	£3	£140	£16	£2	£169	£6	£17	£1	£37	£1
ENGLAND - Minimum	£129	£0	£0	£0	£0	£38	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
ENGLAND - Maximum	£664	£114	£374	£100	£38	£420	£44	£59	£48	£137	£80
Average (median)	£312	£3	£120	£12	£2	£142	£7	£20	£2	£35	£7
Minimum	£223	£0	£44	£1	£1	£73	£4	£8	£0	£0	£0
Maximum	£439	£19	£175	£31	£3	£194	£14	£40	£21	£86	£48
332 Dudley	£436	£3	£136	£5	£2	£142	£7	£8	£0	£44	£5
359 Wigan	£274	£3	£114	£31	£1	£147	£14	£20	£1	£53	£1
371 Doncaster	£374	£19	£175	£17	£3	£194	£8	£17	£14	£0	£18
891 Nottinghamshire	£309	£0	£120	£2	£2	£123	£8	£40	£2	£19	£9
883 Thurrock	£383	£0	£44	£28	£1	£73	£10	£11	£21	£86	£9
372 Rotherham	£312	£0	£173	£12	£2	£186	£4	£28	£2	£28	£7
888 Lancashire	£240	£0	£71	£19	£1	£92	£7	£24	£3	£66	£1
830 Derbyshire	£223	£5	£95	£4	£1	£101	£6	£33	£3	£35	£4
894 Telford & Wrekin	£316	£7	£156	£14	£3	£172	£5	£27	£1	£47	£9
808 Stockton-on-Tees	£439	£4	£167	£5	£2	£174	£6	£17	£0	£24	£0
350 Bolton	£297	£5	£104	£1	£2	£107	£7	£9	£0	£8	£48

- 1) Pupil Divisors Used.
 - * Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools
 - ** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools
 - *** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools
 - **** Total population aged between 0-17.
 - ***** Total population aged between 0-19.
- 2) The national mean is calculated as the Total Buc
- 3) The median shows an average LA amount of sp
- 4) England figures do not include data for City of Lc

**LA Benchmarking Tables
Per Capita Table (Net)**

14-15 Budget LA Table (Net) £ per capita

Statistical Neighbours

To print use the buttons below.

	Col 89	Col 90	Col 91	Col 92	Col 93	Col 94	Col 95	Col 96
	3.4.6 Total Family Support Services****	3.5.1 Universal services for young people****	3.5.2 Targeted services for young people****	3.5.3 Total Services for young people****	3.6.1 Youth justice****	4.0.1 Capital Expenditure from Revenue (CERA) (Non-schools budget functions and Children's and young people services)****	5.0.2 Total Children and Young People's Services and Youth Justice Budget (excluding CERA)(lines 3.0.5 + 3.1.11 + 3.2.1 + 3.3.4 + 3.4.6 + 3.5.3 + 3.6.1)****	Total Children and Young People's Services and Youth Justice Budget (inc CERA)(lines 5.0.2 + 4.0.1)****
ENGLAND - Average (mean)	£74	£24	£25	£48	£15	£2	£660	£662
ENGLAND - Average (median)	£73	£25	£21	£49	£13	£0	£680	£680
ENGLAND - Minimum	£21	£0	£0	£6	-£13	£0	£379	£379
ENGLAND - Maximum	£185	£141	£87	£180	£61	£51	£1,547	£1,547
Average (median)	£78	£37	£20	£63	£12	£0	£712	£720
Minimum	£47	£10	£9	£43	£5	£0	£556	£556
Maximum	£137	£68	£85	£102	£25	£28	£845	£848
332 Dudley	£63	£10	£33	£43	£14	£7	£782	£788
359 Wigan	£89	£18	£85	£102	£25	£0	£712	£712
371 Doncaster	£57	£37	£9	£47	£11	£0	£782	£782
891 Nottinghamshire	£78	£34	£28	£62	£11	£28	£692	£720
883 Thurrock	£137	£45	£19	£63	£15	£0	£746	£746
372 Rotherham	£69	£47	£13	£60	£5	£0	£703	£703
888 Lancashire	£102	£28	£19	£46	£12	£0	£589	£589
830 Derbyshire	£81	£12	£69	£82	£11	£0	£556	£556
894 Telford & Wrekin	£89	£49	£18	£66	£11	£0	£763	£763
808 Stockton-on-Tees	£47	£68	£20	£88	£14	£4	£845	£848
350 Bolton	£72	£41	£26	£67	£14	£0	£626	£626

- 1) Pupil Divisors Used.
 * Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools
 ** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools
 *** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools
 **** Total population aged between 0-17.
 ***** Total population aged between 0-19.

- 2) The national mean is calculated as the Total Budget
 3) The median shows an average LA amount of spend
 4) England figures do not include data for City of London

LA Benchmarking Tables
Per Capita Table (Net)

Appendix 2b

14-15 Budget LA Table (Net) £ per capita

West Midlands

To print use the buttons below.

	Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5	Col 6	Col 7	Col 8	Col 9	Col 10	Col 11	Col 12
	1.0.1 Individual Schools Budget (before Academy recoupment)**	1.1.1 Contingencies*	1.1.2 Behaviour support services*	1.1.3 Support to UPEG and bilingual learners*	1.1.4 Free school meals eligibility*	1.1.5 Insurance*	1.1.6 Museum and Library services*	1.1.7 Licences/subscriptions*	1.1.8 Staff costs – supply cover excluding cover for facility time*	1.1.9 Staff costs – supply cover for facility time*	DEDELEGATED ITEMS*	1.2.1 Top up funding - maintained providers*****
ENGLAND - Average (mean)	£4,361	£9	£6	£6	£1	£3	£0	£2	£6	£2	£34	£130
ENGLAND - Average (median)	£4,300	£5	£2	£2	£1	£0	£0	£0	£1	£2	£28	£123
ENGLAND - Minimum	£3,720	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£12
ENGLAND - Maximum	£6,851	£76	£57	£125	£10	£40	£11	£29	£26	£8	£200	£344
Average (median)	£4,269	£5	£3	£0	£1	£0	£0	£0	£4	£2	£20	£113
Minimum	£3,971	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£20
Maximum	£5,052	£17	£15	£12	£4	£32	£11	£7	£17	£5	£78	£222
330 Birmingham	£5,052	£8	£3	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£3	£0	£13	£152
331 Coventry	£4,496	£0	£7	£12	£1	£0	£0	£2	£11	£5	£37	£112
332 Dudley	£4,434	£5	£7	£6	£0	£0	£6	£0	£8	£5	£36	£114
884 Herefordshire	£4,188	£0	£0	£3	£1	£0	£0	£0	£0	£3	£7	£145
333 Sandwell	£4,424	£17	£15	£0	£2	£0	£1	£1	£6	£0	£42	£222
893 Shropshire	£4,146	£3	£0	£0	£0	£1	£0	£0	£15	£2	£21	£105
334 Solihull	£4,024	£6	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£5	£11	£104
860 Staffordshire	£4,127	£6	£5	£10	£0	£32	£0	£7	£17	£2	£78	£100
861 Stoke-on-Trent	£4,209	£12	£11	£0	£1	£6	£0	£5	£14	£2	£50	£131
894 Telford & Wrekin	£4,329	£0	£2	£0	£1	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£3	£113
335 Walsall	£4,629	£5	£9	£0	£4	£15	£11	£3	£5	£5	£56	£161
937 Warwickshire	£3,971	£5	£1	£8	£1	£0	£0	£0	£1	£3	£18	£78
336 Wolverhampton	£4,926	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£20
885 Worcestershire	£4,080	£4	£0	£11	£0	£0	£0	£0	£2	£2	£18	£83

- 1) Pupil Divisors Used.
 * Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools only.
 ** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools and recoupment academies only.
 *** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools & all academies.
 **** Total population aged between 0-17.
 ***** Total population aged between 0-19.

- 2) The national mean is calculated as the Total Budget (£)/ Total Pupils.
 3) The median shows an average LA amount of spending (£).
 4) England figures do not include data for City of London or Isles of Scilly.

**LA Benchmarking Tables ;
Per Capita Table (Net)**

14-15 Budget LA Table (Net) £ per capita

West Midlands

To print use the buttons below.

	Col 13	Col 14	Col 15	Col 16	Col 17	Col 18	Col 19	Col 20	Col 21	Col 22	Col 23	Col 24
	1.2.2 Top-up funding – academies, free schools and colleges*****	1.2.3 Top-up and other funding – non-maintained and independent providers*****	1.2.4 Additional high needs targeted funding for mainstream schools and academies*****	1.2.5 SEN support services*****	1.2.6 Hospital education services*****	1.2.7 Other alternative provision services*****	1.2.8 Support for inclusion*****	1.2.9 Special schools and PRUs in financial difficulty*****	1.2.10 PFI/ BSF costs at special schools and AP/ PRUs*****	1.2.11 Direct payments (SEN and disability)*****	1.2.12 Carbon reduction commitment allowances (PRUs)*****	HIGH NEEDS BUDGET*****
ENGLAND - Average (mean)	£30	£69	£4	£34	£3	£10	£13	£0	£0	£0	£0	£293
ENGLAND - Average (median)	£25	£66	£1	£31	£1	£6	£7	£0	£0	£0	£0	£293
ENGLAND - Minimum	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£81
ENGLAND - Maximum	£168	£207	£99	£110	£46	£53	£74	£7	£12	£36	£3	£575
Average (median)	£19	£55	£2	£33	£2	£7	£7	£0	£0	£0	£0	£261
Minimum	£0	£15	£0	£17	£0	£0	£1	£0	£0	£0	£0	£81
Maximum	£50	£121	£13	£52	£8	£26	£58	£7	£4	£0	£0	£354
330 Birmingham	£20	£55	£2	£35	£0	£9	£1	£0	£0	£0	£0	£274
331 Coventry	£3	£61	£0	£51	£5	£20	£8	£0	£0	£0	£0	£260
332 Dudley	£2	£55	£0	£52	£6	£25	£5	£1	£0	£0	£0	£261
884 Herefordshire	£24	£37	£4	£35	£3	£0	£8	£0	£0	£0	£0	£257
333 Sandwell	£44	£34	£1	£37	£8	£3	£4	£0	£0	£0	£0	£351
893 Shropshire	£16	£90	£13	£27	£1	£0	£7	£0	£0	£0	£0	£259
334 Solihull	£35	£115	£3	£49	£0	£15	£5	£0	£0	£0	£0	£326
860 Staffordshire	£10	£51	£1	£29	£1	£2	£13	£0	£0	£0	£0	£209
861 Stoke-on-Trent	£25	£89	£0	£31	£3	£17	£58	£0	£0	£0	£0	£354
894 Telford & Wrekin	£18	£64	£2	£20	£1	£8	£9	£0	£0	£0	£0	£234
335 Walsall	£8	£52	£11	£17	£0	£5	£3	£7	£0	£0	£0	£263
937 Warwickshire	£25	£121	£0	£36	£0	£26	£13	£0	£0	£0	£0	£299
336 Wolverhampton	£0	£15	£4	£23	£6	£3	£1	£6	£4	£0	£0	£81
885 Worcestershire	£50	£54	£2	£19	£5	£0	£6	£0	£0	£0	£0	£219

- 1) Pupil Divisors Used.
 * Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools c
 ** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools e
 *** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools f
 **** Total population aged between 0-17.
 ***** Total population aged between 0-19.

- 2) The national mean is calculated as the Total Bud
 3) The median shows an average LA amount of spe
 4) England figures do not include data for City of Lo

LA Benchmarking Tables
Per Capita Table (Net)

14-15 Budget LA Table (Net) £ per capita

West Midlands

To print use the buttons below.

	Col 25	Col 26	Col 27	Col 28	Col 29	Col 30	Col 31	Col 32	Col 33	Col 34	Col 35	Col 36
	1.3.1 Central expenditure on children under 5****	1.4.1 Contribution to combined budgets**	1.4.2 School admissions**	1.4.3 Servicing of schools forums**	1.4.4 Termination of employment costs**	1.4.5 Falling Rolls Fund**	1.4.6 Capital expenditure from revenue (CERA)**	1.4.7 Prudential borrowing costs**	1.4.8 Fees to independent schools without SEN**	1.4.9 Equal pay - back pay**	1.4.10 Pupil growth/ Infant class sizes**	1.4.11 SEN transport**
ENGLAND - Average (mean)	£33	£25	£9	£1	£5	£1	£14	£4	£1	£2	£20	£3
ENGLAND - Average (median)	£25	£15	£8	£1	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£14	£0
ENGLAND - Minimum	£1	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
ENGLAND - Maximum	£177	£117	£42	£27	£41	£19	£159	£69	£51	£56	£115	£49
Average (median)	£27	£10	£8	£0	£2	£0	£1	£0	£0	£0	£4	£0
Minimum	£3	£0	£5	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Maximum	£154	£73	£15	£2	£41	£19	£23	£39	£51	£31	£29	£6
330 Birmingham	£26	£73	£8	£1	£0	£3	£0	£0	£0	£0	£18	£0
331 Coventry	£27	£29	£12	£0	£6	£0	£12	£0	£0	£3	£20	£6
332 Dudley	£71	£7	£7	£0	£1	£0	£1	£0	£2	£0	£0	£0
884 Herefordshire	£10	£0	£5	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
333 Sandwell	£48	£6	£9	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£17	£29	£0
893 Shropshire	£3	£28	£8	£0	£28	£0	£16	£8	£0	£0	£0	£0
334 Solihull	£11	£11	£6	£2	£0	£0	£20	£39	£0	£0	£3	£0
860 Staffordshire	£54	£18	£6	£0	£11	£0	£19	£8	£0	£0	£5	£2
861 Stoke-on-Trent	£154	£24	£9	£1	£41	£0	£0	£18	£0	£31	£14	£0
894 Telford & Wrekin	£13	£1	£15	£1	£0	£19	£23	£0	£0	£0	£4	£0
335 Walsall	£51	£1	£5	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£1	£0
937 Warwickshire	£20	£9	£10	£0	£9	£0	£0	£3	£0	£0	£7	£0
336 Wolverhampton	£101	£0	£6	£1	£2	£0	£0	£0	£51	£0	£0	£4
885 Worcestershire	£13	£19	£9	£1	£2	£2	£13	£0	£0	£0	£2	£0

- 1) Pupil Divisors Used.
 - * Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools
 - ** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools
 - *** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools
 - **** Total population aged between 0-17.
 - ***** Total population aged between 0-19.

- 2) The national mean is calculated as the Total Bud
- 3) The median shows an average LA amount of spe
- 4) England figures do not include data for City of Lo

**LA Benchmarking Tables
Per Capita Table (Net)**

14-15 Budget LA Table (Net) £ per capita

West Midlands

To print use the buttons below.

	Col 37	Col 38	Col 39	Col 40	Col 41	Col 42	Col 43	Col 44	Col 45	Col 46	Col 47	Col 48
	1.4.12 Exceptions agreed by Secretary of State**	1.4.13 Other Items**	1.5.1 Other Specific Grants**	1.6.1 TOTAL SCHOOLS BUDGET (before Academy recoupment)**	2.0.1 Therapies and other health related services*	2.0.2 Central support services*	2.0.3 Education welfare service*	2.0.4 School improvement*	2.0.5 Asset management - education*	2.0.6 Statutory/Regulatory duties - education*	2.0.7 Premature retirement cost/Redundancy costs (new provisions)*	2.0.8 Monitoring national curriculum assessment*
ENGLAND - Average (mean)	£1	£2	£0	£4,996	£2	£8	£14	£32	£12	£44	£6	£1
ENGLAND - Average (median)	£0	£2	£0	£4,918	£0	£5	£14	£29	£6	£42	£0	£0
ENGLAND - Minimum	£0	£0	£0	£4,234	£0	£-10	£0	£0	£0	£-11	£0	£0
ENGLAND - Maximum	£92	£41	£45	£8,165	£43	£78	£200	£217	£120	£437	£51	£13
Average (median)	£0	£1	£0	£4,901	£0	£6	£15	£31	£5	£39	£5	£0
Minimum	£0	£0	£0	£4,504	£0	£0	£0	£3	£1	£18	£0	£0
Maximum	£13	£6	£1	£5,662	£2	£38	£26	£50	£48	£113	£30	£3
330 Birmingham	£0	£2	£0	£5,662	£0	£1	£3	£3	£16	£36	£15	£0
331 Coventry	£2	£0	£0	£5,066	£0	£5	£18	£17	£3	£40	£5	£1
332 Dudley	£0	£2	£0	£4,991	£0	£12	£12	£38	£11	£37	£0	£3
884 Herefordshire	£3	£0	£0	£4,642	£0	£0	£0	£16	£2	£57	£13	£1
333 Sandwell	£0	£6	£0	£5,182	£0	£38	£20	£40	£15	£60	£0	£0
893 Shropshire	£2	£0	£0	£4,700	£0	£8	£14	£26	£3	£38	£18	£0
334 Solihull	£0	£3	£0	£4,582	£0	£2	£16	£50	£4	£68	£0	£0
860 Staffordshire	£3	£0	£0	£4,657	£0	£3	£13	£40	£4	£18	£30	£0
861 Stoke-on-Trent	£13	£0	£1	£5,207	£2	£2	£17	£8	£13	£22	£0	£0
894 Telford & Wrekin	£0	£0	£0	£4,810	£1	£9	£7	£29	£5	£61	£7	£1
335 Walsall	£3	£0	£0	£5,146	£0	£21	£26	£33	£4	£37	£0	£0
937 Warwickshire	£0	£5	£0	£4,512	£0	£6	£17	£33	£1	£24	£22	£1
336 Wolverhampton	£0	£2	£0	£5,266	£0	£7	£21	£18	£48	£113	£0	£0
885 Worcestershire	£0	£3	£0	£4,504	£0	£0	£10	£38	£18	£59	£4	£0

- 1) Pupil Divisors Used.
 - * Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools
 - ** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools &
 - *** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools &
 - **** Total population aged between 0-17.
 - ***** Total population aged between 0-19.

- 2) The national mean is calculated as the Total Bud
- 3) The median shows an average LA amount of spe
- 4) England figures do not include data for City of Lo

**LA Benchmarking Tables :
Per Capita Table (Net)**

14-15 Budget LA Table (Net) £ per capita

West Midlands

To print use the buttons below.

	Col 49	Col 50	Col 51	Col 52	Col 53	Col 54	Col 55	Col 56	Col 57	Col 58	Col 59	Col 60
	2.1.1 Educational psychology service***	2.1.2 SEN administration, assessment and coordination and monitoring***	2.1.3 Parent partnership, guidance and information***	2.1.4 Home to school transport: SEN transport expenditure(0 - 25)***	2.1.5 Home to school transport: other home to school transport expenditure***	2.1.6 Supply of school places***	2.2.1 Young people's learning and development***	2.2.2 Adult and Community learning***	2.2.3 Pension costs***	2.2.4 Joint use arrangements***	2.2.5 Insurance***	2.3.1 Other Specific Grant***
ENGLAND - Average (mean)	£15	£12	£2	£71	£49	£3	£4	£5	£33	£0	£1	£0
ENGLAND - Average (median)	£14	£12	£2	£70	£17	£2	£2	£1	£30	£0	£0	£0
ENGLAND - Minimum	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
ENGLAND - Maximum	£48	£39	£19	£163	£229	£29	£57	£90	£132	£13	£8	£22
Average (median)	£13	£11	£2	£66	£16	£2	£3	£3	£40	£0	£0	£0
Minimum	£8	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£5	£0	£0	£0
Maximum	£48	£18	£4	£89	£193	£16	£17	£20	£98	£5	£3	£0
330 Birmingham	£13	£5	£2	£89	£1	£2	£0	£0	£33	£0	£1	£0
331 Coventry	£13	£13	£2	£57	£4	£1	£4	£4	£40	£0	£1	£0
332 Dudley	£12	£10	£2	£64	£17	£1	£5	£1	£39	£0	£0	£0
884 Herefordshire	£11	£13	£3	£0	£193	£16	£0	£0	£5	£0	£0	£0
333 Sandwell	£16	£2	£1	£46	£7	£0	£5	£10	£59	£0	£0	£0
893 Shropshire	£12	£0	£2	£86	£170	£0	£0	£0	£40	£0	£1	£0
334 Solihull	£13	£15	£2	£49	£15	£8	£4	£0	£28	£0	£0	£0
860 Staffordshire	£23	£18	£4	£74	£47	£4	£5	£4	£62	£0	£0	£0
861 Stoke-on-Trent	£18	£12	£3	£64	£7	£0	£17	£0	£39	£0	£0	£0
894 Telford & Wrekin	£15	£11	£2	£71	£35	£2	£2	£20	£51	£5	£3	£0
335 Walsall	£20	£8	£0	£47	£0	£0	£0	£15	£28	£0	£0	£0
937 Warwickshire	£10	£11	£2	£81	£115	£3	£2	£5	£43	£0	£0	£0
336 Wolverhampton	£48	£6	£4	£68	£11	£4	£17	£13	£98	£3	£0	£0
885 Worcestershire	£8	£14	£2	£72	£74	£5	£0	£0	£6	£0	£0	£0

- 1) Pupil Divisors Used.
 * Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools c
 ** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools e
 *** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools f
 **** Total population aged between 0-17.
 ***** Total population aged between 0-19.

- 2) The national mean is calculated as the Total Bud
 3) The median shows an average LA amount of spe
 4) England figures do not include data for City of Lo

**LA Benchmarking Tables
Per Capita Table (Net)**

14-15 Budget LA Table (Net) £ per capita

West Midlands

To print use the buttons below.

	Col 61	Col 62	Col 63	Col 64	Col 65	Col 66	Col 67	Col 68	Col 69	Col 70	Col 71	Col 72
	2.4.1 Total Other education and community budget for maintained schools only*	2.4.1 Total Other education and community budget for maintained schools and academies**	3.0.1 Funding for individual Sure Start Children's Centres****	3.0.2 Funding for local authority provided or commissioned area wide services delivered through Sure Start Children's Centres****	3.0.3 Funding on local authority management costs relating to Sure Start Children's Centres****	3.0.4 Other early years funding****	3.0.5 Total Sure Start Children's Centres and Early Years Funding****	3.1.1 Residential care****	3.1.2 Fostering services****	3.1.3 Adoption services****	3.1.4 Special guardianship support****	3.1.5 Other children looked after services****
ENGLAND - Average (mean)	£118	£195	£52	£8	£4	£14	£78	£73	£122	£22	£10	£16
ENGLAND - Average (median)	£111	£172	£50	£2	£2	£12	£73	£71	£124	£22	£9	£11
ENGLAND - Minimum	£34	£68	£0	£0	£0	£-67	£11	£14	£53	£2	£0	£0
ENGLAND - Maximum	£596	£393	£184	£156	£40	£62	£263	£281	£286	£74	£36	£136
Average (median)	£110	£169	£58	£1	£2	£9	£71	£94	£150	£15	£7	£9
Minimum	£63	£119	£5	£0	£0	£0	£11	£20	£61	£10	£1	£0
Maximum	£206	£312	£88	£11	£6	£31	£118	£182	£283	£35	£17	£21
330 Birmingham	£74	£146	£68	£7	£4	£8	£88	£96	£147	£28	£8	£9
331 Coventry	£89	£141	£52	£0	£3	£5	£60	£182	£167	£34	£5	£9
332 Dudley	£112	£151	£62	£1	£4	£13	£79	£145	£211	£14	£7	£17
884 Herefordshire	£90	£242	£11	£0	£0	£0	£11	£73	£129	£26	£13	£21
333 Sandwell	£172	£146	£86	£7	£0	£25	£118	£82	£171	£15	£17	£2
893 Shropshire	£107	£312	£53	£0	£0	£9	£62	£115	£61	£10	£1	£0
334 Solihull	£140	£134	£38	£4	£1	£9	£51	£79	£162	£14	£2	£11
860 Staffordshire	£108	£240	£14	£11	£0	£4	£29	£92	£111	£15	£9	£11
861 Stoke-on-Trent	£63	£158	£81	£1	£3	£1	£85	£112	£128	£31	£15	£11
894 Telford & Wrekin	£121	£216	£70	£0	£0	£31	£101	£120	£139	£15	£8	£1
335 Walsall	£120	£119	£88	£0	£0	£15	£103	£80	£155	£30	£6	£19
937 Warwickshire	£105	£271	£49	£1	£3	£5	£57	£20	£118	£13	£7	£9
336 Wolverhampton	£206	£272	£71	£2	£6	£16	£96	£125	£283	£35	£7	£3
885 Worcestershire	£129	£180	£5	£0	£2	£13	£20	£67	£152	£13	£5	£0

- 1) Pupil Divisors Used.
 * Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools c
 ** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools e
 *** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools f
 **** Total population aged between 0-17.
 ***** Total population aged between 0-19.

- 2) The national mean is calculated as the Total Bud
 3) The median shows an average LA amount of spe
 4) England figures do not include data for City of Lo

LA Benchmarking Tables
Per Capita Table (Net)

14-15 Budget LA Table (Net) £ per capita

West Midlands

To print use the buttons below.

	Col 73	Col 74	Col 75	Col 76	Col 77	Col 78	Col 79	Col 80	Col 81	Col 82	Col 83	Col 84
	3.1.6 Short breaks (respite) for looked after disabled children****	3.1.7 Children placed with family and friends****	3.1.8 Education of looked after children****	3.1.9 Leaving care support services****	3.1.10 Asylum seeker services children****	3.1.11 Total Children Looked After****	3.2.1 Other children and families services****	3.3.1 Social work (including LA functions in relation to child protection)****	3.3.2 Commissioning and Children's Services Strategy****	3.3.3 Local Safeguarding Children Board****	3.3.4 Total Safeguarding Children and Young People's Services****	3.4.1 Direct payments****
ENGLAND - Average (mean)	£5	£6	£3	£19	£2	£277	£7	£138	£21	£2	£161	£7
ENGLAND - Average (median)	£1	£4	£2	£19	£0	£281	£3	£140	£16	£2	£169	£6
ENGLAND - Minimum	£0	£0	£0	£0	-£4	£129	£0	£0	£0	£0	£38	£0
ENGLAND - Maximum	£42	£33	£17	£81	£17	£664	£114	£374	£100	£38	£420	£44
Average (median)	£1	£4	£3	£18	£0	£314	£1	£169	£14	£2	£191	£5
Minimum	£0	£0	£0	£5	-£4	£190	£0	£92	£0	£0	£94	£0
Maximum	£20	£23	£13	£35	£3	£519	£23	£210	£57	£4	£235	£12
330 Birmingham	£0	£0	£0	£20	£2	£311	£2	£192	£29	£0	£221	£4
331 Coventry	£10	£0	£1	£17	£1	£427	£23	£179	£14	£2	£195	£12
332 Dudley	£3	£23	£5	£11	£0	£436	£3	£136	£5	£2	£142	£7
884 Herefordshire	£0	£3	£3	£7	£0	£274	£0	£170	£40	£4	£214	£5
333 Sandwell	£9	£0	£0	£21	£3	£322	£0	£193	£14	£3	£209	£3
893 Shropshire	£0	£0	£5	£27	£0	£220	£0	£92	£0	£2	£94	£2
334 Solihull	£0	£7	£0	£6	-£4	£277	£0	£210	£22	£3	£235	£10
860 Staffordshire	£20	£5	£0	£35	£2	£298	£0	£171	£15	£1	£186	£6
861 Stoke-on-Trent	£5	£1	£13	£19	£0	£334	£1	£167	£11	£1	£180	£0
894 Telford & Wrekin	£2	£11	£2	£16	£0	£316	£7	£156	£14	£3	£172	£5
335 Walsall	£0	£18	£6	£19	£0	£334	£0	£166	£57	£2	£225	£9
937 Warwickshire	£0	£11	£3	£8	£1	£190	£7	£201	£11	£1	£213	£2
336 Wolverhampton	£16	£14	£9	£27	£0	£519	£2	£165	£8	£0	£174	£4
885 Worcestershire	£0	£0	£1	£5	£2	£246	£0	£115	£24	£1	£140	£3

- 1) Pupil Divisors Used.
 - * Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools c
 - ** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools e
 - *** Total pupils aged 3-19 from maintained schools f
 - **** Total population aged between 0-17.
 - ***** Total population aged between 0-19.
- 2) The national mean is calculated as the Total Bud
- 3) The median shows an average LA amount of spe
- 4) England figures do not include data for City of Lo

14-15 Additional Information Table
Statistical Neighbours

To print use the buttons below.

	Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5	Col 6	Col 7	Col 8
					Further gross per capita breakdown (Seleted lines from LA Table divided by relevant pupils/ population)			Further net per capit divided I
	2014-15 DSG Schools Block Unit of Funding £ / pupil	1.7.5 Local Authority additional contribution	Percentage of primary schools receiving Minimum Funding Guarantee for 2014-15 (1)	Percentage of secondary schools receiving Minimum Funding Guarantee for 2014-15 (1)	2.1.4 Home to school transport: SEN transport expenditure(0 - 25)+1.4.11 SEN transport (2)	3.1.11 Total children looked after (3)	3.3.4 Total Safeguarding Children and Young People's Services (3,4,5)	2.1.4 Home to school transport: SEN expenditure(0 - 25)+1.4.11 SEN transport (2)
ENGLAND - Average (mean)	4,555	156,551	32%	29%	2,598	49,496	4,425	2,548
ENGLAND - Average (median)	4,490	0	31%	25%	2,547	50,655	4,307	2,484
ENGLAND - Minimum	3,950	0	4%	0%	0	21,865	1,532	0
ENGLAND - Maximum	7,014	8,104,531	100%	100%	9,658	108,859	10,426	6,630
Average (median)	4,486	0	27%	21%	2,562	48,701	3,137	2,525
Minimum	4,245	0	21%	0%	1,365	36,629	2,196	1,365
Maximum	4,844	1	45%	60%	4,339	62,203	4,894	4,339
332 Dudley	4,459	0	23%	23%	2,024	41,148	2,597	1,955
359 Wigan	4,527	1	39%	7%	3,839	36,980	3,998	3,452
371 Doncaster	4,519	0	22%	0%	2,652	49,962	3,360	2,652
891 Nottinghamshire	4,351	0	42%	0%	4,339	58,681	2,334	4,339
883 Thurrock	4,432	1	45%	0%	1,365	62,203	2,196	1,365
372 Rotherham	4,844	0	27%	25%	2,241	48,701	4,894	2,189
888 Lancashire	4,486	0	21%	21%	2,730	40,768	3,220	2,730
830 Derbyshire	4,245	0	22%	23%	2,438	54,645	3,137	2,427
894 Telford and Wrekin	4,367	0	27%	60%	1,979	39,097	4,177	1,979
808 Stockton-on-Tees	4,487	0	21%	33%	2,714	52,646	2,996	2,525
350 Bolton	4,536	0	31%	8%	2,562	36,629	2,430	2,562

1) '-' denotes LA doesn't have relevant maintained schools.

2) Divisor includes statemented pupils as at January 2014.

3) Divisor includes looked after children using SSDA 903 return (as at 31st March 2013).

4) Divisor includes children in need (as at 31st March 2013).

5) '-' denotes pupil numbers for children in need not available.

England figures do not include data for City of London and the Isles of Scilly.

Section 251 data as at 2nd Sept 2014.

Figures are rounded so may not sum.

14-15 Additional Information Table
Statistical Neighbours

Col 9
Data breakdown (Selected lines from LA Table
by relevant pupils/ population)

Col 10

To print use the buttons below.

	3.1.11 Total children looked after (3)	3.3.4 Total Safeguarding Children and Young People's Services (3,4,5)																
ENGLAND - Average (mean)	46,879	4,278																
ENGLAND - Average (median)	47,421	4,220																
ENGLAND - Minimum	21,865	1,394																
ENGLAND - Maximum	101,957	9,914																
Average (median)	44,842	3,084																
Minimum	36,296	1,841																
Maximum	57,493	4,704																
332 Dudley	40,008	2,554																
359 Wigan	36,296	3,759																
371 Doncaster	48,846	3,293																
891 Nottinghamshire	57,438	2,317																
883 Thurrock	57,493	1,841																
372 Rotherham	44,842	4,704																
888 Lancashire	39,721	3,084																
830 Derbyshire	51,958	3,088																
894 Telford and Wrekin	38,335	4,096																
808 Stockton-on-Tees	51,853	2,770																
350 Bolton	36,297	2,430																

- 1) '-' denotes LA doesn't have relevant maintained schools.
- 2) Divisor includes stated pupils as at January 2014.
- 3) Divisor includes looked after children using SSDA 903 return (as at 31st March 2014).
- 4) Divisor includes children in need (as at 31st March 2013).
- 5) '-' denotes pupil numbers for children in need not available.

England figures do not include data for City of London and the Isles of Scilly
Section 251 data as at 2nd Sept 2014.
Figures are rounded so may not sum.

14-15 Additional Information Table
West Midlands

To print use the buttons below.

	Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5	Col 6	Col 7	Col 8
					Further gross per capita breakdown (Seleted lines from LA Table divided by relevant pupils/ population)			Further net per capit divided I
	2014-15 DSG Schools Block Unit of Funding £ / pupil	1.7.5 Local Authority additional contribution	Percentage of primary schools receiving Minimum Funding Guarantee for 2014-15 (1)	Percentage of secondary schools receiving Minimum Funding Guarantee for 2014-15 (1)	2.1.4 Home to school transport: SEN transport expenditure(0 - 25)+1.4.11 SEN transport (2)	3.1.11 Total children looked after (3)	3.3.4 Total Safeguarding Children and Young People's Services (3,4,5)	2.1.4 Home to school transport: SEN transport expenditure(0 - 25)+1.4.11 SEN transport (2)
ENGLAND - Average (mean)	4,555	156,551	32%	29%	2,598	49,496	4,425	2,548
ENGLAND - Average (median)	4,490	0	31%	25%	2,547	50,655	4,307	2,484
ENGLAND - Minimum	3,950	0	4%	0%	0	21,865	1,532	0
ENGLAND - Maximum	7,014	8,104,531	100%	100%	9,658	108,859	10,426	6,630
Average (median)	4,413	0	33%	22%	2,091	45,979	4,404	2,076
Minimum	4,079	0	11%	0%	0	32,594	2,597	0
Maximum	5,218	547,740	57%	80%	2,770	57,958	6,295	2,667
330 Birmingham	5,218	0	32%	46%	2,691	47,247	4,778	2,664
331 Coventry	4,862	0	11%	14%	2,770	53,510	3,897	2,667
332 Dudley	4,459	0	23%	23%	2,024	41,148	2,597	1,955
884 Herefordshire	4,306	0	47%	17%	0	46,042	5,016	0
333 Sandwell	4,771	0	24%	20%	2,149	44,427	5,668	2,149
893 Shropshire	4,113	0	57%	8%	1,918	57,958	3,328	1,918
334 Solihull	4,188	0	55%	0%	1,504	48,324	5,550	1,504
860 Staffordshire	4,310	547,740	19%	43%	2,561	56,519	6,295	2,561
861 Stoke-on-Trent	4,507	0	18%	0%	2,198	40,349	2,912	2,189
894 Telford and Wrekin	4,367	0	27%	60%	1,979	39,097	4,177	1,979
335 Walsall	4,643	0	35%	0%	2,033	38,726	4,498	1,920
937 Warwickshire	4,079	0	37%	27%	2,569	32,594	5,796	2,512
336 Wolverhampton	4,827	0	39%	80%	2,018	52,287	3,936	2,003
885 Worcestershire	4,231	0	57%	45%	2,377	45,915	4,310	2,250

1) '-' denotes LA doesn't have relevant maintained schools.

2) Divisor includes statedented pupils as at January 2014.

3) Divisor includes looked after children using SSDA 903 return (as at 31st March 2013).

4) Divisor includes children in need (as at 31st March 2013).

5) '-' denotes pupil numbers for children in need not available.

England figures do not include data for City of London and the Isles of Scilly.

Section 251 data as at 2nd Sept 2014.

Figures are rounded so may not sum.

14-15 Additional Information Table
West Midlands

Col 9
Data breakdown (Selected lines from LA Table
by relevant pupils/ population)

Col 10

To print use the buttons below.

	3.1.11 Total children looked after (3)	3.3.4 Total Safeguarding Children and Young People's Services (3,4,5)															
ENGLAND - Average (mean)	46,879	4,278															
ENGLAND - Average (median)	47,421	4,220															
ENGLAND - Minimum	21,865	1,394															
ENGLAND - Maximum	101,957	9,914															
Average (median)	42,778	4,317															
Minimum	30,539	2,554															
Maximum	54,904	5,741															
330 Birmingham	46,104	4,669															
331 Coventry	50,621	3,869															
332 Dudley	40,008	2,554															
884 Herefordshire	45,677	4,872															
333 Sandwell	41,383	5,530															
893 Shropshire	54,904	3,273															
334 Solihull	38,584	5,538															
860 Staffordshire	52,901	5,387															
861 Stoke-on-Trent	38,449	2,784															
894 Telford and Wrekin	38,335	4,096															
335 Walsall	37,208	4,406															
937 Warwickshire	30,539	5,741															
336 Wolverhampton	44,466	3,725															
885 Worcestershire	44,173	4,229															

- 1) '-' denotes LA doesn't have relevant maintained schools.
- 2) Divisor includes statemented pupils as at January 2014.
- 3) Divisor includes looked after children using SSDA 903 return (as at 31st March 2014).
- 4) Divisor includes children in need (as at 31st March 2013).
- 5) '-' denotes pupil numbers for children in need not available.

England figures do not include data for City of London and the Isles of Scilly.
Section 251 data as at 2nd Sept 2014.
Figures are rounded so may not sum.

Schools Forum 21st October 2014

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

Effective Schools Forums

Purpose of Report

1. To re-circulate to Schools Forum the Education Funding Agency's operational and good practice guide issued in October 2013.

Budget Working Group Discussed

2. No.

Schools Forum Role and Responsibilities

3. National regulations govern the composition, constitution and procedures of Schools Forums.
4. Schools Forums generally have a consultative role. However, there are situations in which they have decision-making powers.
5. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct Department for Education (DfE) grant: the Dedicated School Grant (DSG).
6. 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.
7. The Education Funding Agency (EFA) best practice guide advises that Schools Forum have a role in the challenge and scrutiny function whereby the Forum may be asked to agree to proposals from their local authority that will have an effect on all schools and academies in the local area. The extent to which Schools Forums can scrutinise and challenge such proposals is an important aspect of their effectiveness.

Action for Schools Forum

8. The EFA reissued in October 2013 their publication Schools Forums: Operational and Good Practice Guide. A copy of the full guidance is provided on Dudley's Schools Forum website at <http://www.dudley.gov.uk/community/community-forums/dudley-schools-forum/>. This publication was discussed at the December 2013 meeting and is included in the Schools Forum member's induction information.
9. Dudley's member induction information is in the process of being updated and will be circulated during the Autumn term.

10. Whilst Section 1 relates to the procedural and constitutional arrangements which are documented in Dudley's Schools Forum Constitution, Section 2 relates to Effective Schools Forums and following recent questions regarding the remit of Schools Forum the guidance is attached at Appendix 2 as a reminder of the characteristics which contribute to an effective Schools Forum.

Attachments to Report

11. Appendix 1 – Education Funding Agency Operational and Good Practice Guide for Schools Forums – Section 2: Effective Schools Forums.

Karen Cocker
Children's Services Finance Manager
6th October 2014

Schools Forum 21st October 2014

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

Effective Schools Forums

Purpose of Report

1. To re-circulate to Schools Forum the Education Funding Agency's operational and good practice guide issued in October 2013.

Background

2. Section 2 of the Education Funding Agency's operational and good practice guide issued in October 2013, titled Effective Forums, is attached at Appendix 1 for future reference.

Finance

3. The funding of schools is prescribed by the Department for Education (DfE) through the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013.
4. Schools Forums are regulated by the regulated by the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012.
5. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct grant; Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

Law

6. 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

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

Recommendation

8. Schools Forum to note the contents of Section 2 of the Education Funding Agency's operation and good practice guide: Effective Schools Forums.



Pauline Sharratt
Interim Director of Children's Services

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



Education
Funding
Agency

Schools Forums: operational and good practice guide

**For local authorities and members of
Schools Forums**

October 2013

Section 2 – Effective Schools Forums

Introduction

- 2.1. As the previous section outlined, local authorities have responsibility for establishing Schools Forums. They also have an ongoing responsibility to provide them with appropriate support, information and guidance in carrying out their functions and responsibilities.
- 2.2. The following outlines some aspects of what local authorities and Schools Forums should consider in ensuring that their Schools Forums are as effective as possible. The pace of academy conversions in particular means that this significant sector must be properly represented and feel that it is able to play a meaningful part in the discussions of the Schools Forum.
- 2.3. Central to the effectiveness or otherwise of a Schools Forum will be the relationship between it and its local authority. The local authority will have a significant influence on this: the support it provides; the resources it devotes and the weight it gives to the views of Schools Forums all contribute to the nature of the relationship. There are therefore a number of characteristics of this relationship that are particularly important:
 - *Partnership: Having a shared understanding of the priorities, issues and concerns of schools, academies and the local authority.*
 - *Effective Support: The business of the Schools Forum is supported by the local authority in an efficient and professional manner.*
 - *Openness: It is important that a Schools Forum feels it is receiving open, honest and objective advice from its local authority.*
 - *Responsiveness: Local authorities should as far as possible be responsive to requests from their Schools Forums and their members. Schools Forums themselves should also be aware of the resource implications of their requests.*
 - *Strategic view: Members of Schools Forum should consider the needs of the whole of the educational community, rather than using their position on a Schools Forum to advance their own sectional or specific interests.*
 - *Challenge and Scrutiny: Schools Forums may be asked to agree to proposals from their local authority that will have an effect on all schools and academies in the local area. The extent to which Schools Forums can scrutinise and challenge such proposals is an important aspect of their effectiveness.*
- 2.4. The characteristics identified above are just some of the aspects that will contribute to an effective Schools Forum. The following provides more detail on some of the specific issues that local authorities and Schools Forums may wish to consider in thinking about their own arrangements.

Induction of new members

- 2.5. When new members join the Schools Forum appropriate induction materials should be provided. These might include material relating to the operation of the Schools Forum together with background information about the local and national school funding arrangements. Typically they might comprise:
 - a. the constitution of the Schools Forum
 - b. a list of members including contact details and their terms of office
 - c. any locally agreed terms of reference explaining the relationship between the Schools Forum and the local authority
 - d. copies of minutes of previous meetings
 - e. the programme of Schools Forum meetings for the year
 - f. the local Schools Forum web address
- 2.6. This Operational and Good Practice Guide, suitably supplemented by local material, should also be provided to new members on their appointment.
- 2.7. Where there is sufficient turnover of Schools Forum members in any particular year the local authority may wish to organise a one-off induction event to brief new members. Such an event would usefully include an outline of the role of the Schools Forum and the national funding arrangements for schools and local authorities. It might also include an explanation of the local funding formula and any proposals for review. The opportunity could also be taken to explain the main reporting requirements for school and local authority expenditure.

Training

- 2.8. Ideally Schools Forum members should be able to use some of the budget set aside for Schools Forum running costs for accessing relevant training activities. Some training will be provided by officers of the local authority but members may wish to attend national or regional events, the costs of which, where necessary, can be supported from the Schools Forum budget.
- 2.9. Training will need to be provided in response to any changes in the role of the Schools Forum and national developments in respect of school funding.

Agenda setting

- 2.10. The process by which the agenda for a meeting or cycle of meetings is set is in many respects one of the key determinants of the effectiveness or otherwise of a Schools Forum.
- 2.11. The frequency and timing of meetings of the Schools Forum should be agreed in advance of each financial or academic year. In drawing up this cycle of meetings, in consultation with the Schools Forum, the local authority should provide a clear overview of the key consultative and decision-making points in the school funding cycle. These will be drawn from a combination of national and local information and should inform the basic agenda items that each meeting needs to cover. For instance meetings will need to be scheduled at appropriate points to enable the

Schools Forum to consider the outcomes of local consultations and national announcements.

- 2.12. Although the business of Schools Forums must be open and transparent, it is recognised that from time to time items of a confidential nature will need to be discussed. It is recommended that authorities apply the same principles that they apply to Council/Cabinet meetings when judging an item to be confidential and adopt similar practices for dealing with those reports in the meeting, e.g. placing them together at the end of the agenda.

Preparation for a Schools Forum meeting

- 2.13. It is vital that Schools Forum is transparent, open and has clear communication lines to all of the members that are represented. This ensures the wider school family are aware of the business discussed, the impact on their setting and the reasons for the decisions.
- 2.14. The vast majority of a Schools Forum's business will be transacted on the basis of prepared papers. It is therefore important that these are concise, informative and produced in a timely and consistent manner. Recommendations should be clearly set out at the beginning of each report. It is also helpful if the front of the report confirms whether the report is for information or decision and who is eligible to vote where relevant.
- 2.15. It is good practice for the Schools Forum and local authority to agree a standard for these. It is usual for papers to be dispatched at least one week prior to the meeting at which they will be discussed to allow members to consider them and if necessary canvass views from the group they are representing. Papers should be published on the local authority's website at this time to enable representations to be made to Schools Forum members.
- 2.16. Consistency in the presentation of papers also contributes to the effectiveness of meetings: it helps set the tone of meetings, facilitate the engagement of all members and signal the importance the local authority attaches to the work of the Schools Forum. Ideally such a standard should be agreed between the Schools Forum and local authority. The publishing of papers as a single pdf file is helpful as it saves time and avoids accessing multiple documents both in advance of, and during, the meeting. An Executive Summary of the reports can provide Schools Forum members and members of the public with an overview of the agenda and the decisions required.
- 2.17. The publishing of papers on a publicly available website well in advance of the meeting ensures that all interested parties are able to access papers. Some Schools Forums ensure that each represented group meets in the days immediately prior to the Schools Forum meeting to ensure the agenda is discussed and Schools Forum members are properly briefed by the group they represent. Although on occasions it is inevitable that Schools Forums will receive late, or tabled reports it does create some difficulty for members as they will not have been able to seek the views of those they represent.

- 2.18. Schools Forums can consider adopting a flexible arrangement for time immediately prior to the meeting. For example it could be used for training of new members, or as a drop-in session for members to ask items of clarification, or for members to meet without officers to discuss the agenda.

Chairing the Schools Forum

- 2.19. The Chair of a Schools Forum plays a key role in setting the tone, pace and overall dynamic of the Schools Forum. They should provide an environment within which all members are able to contribute fully to discussions and guide the Schools Forum to making well informed decisions.
- 2.20. The relationship between the Chair and the local authority is therefore vital. The Chair should be very clear on the substance of the agenda items, understand the issues involved and the decisions and/or actions that need to be taken in respect of School Forum business. It is good practice for there to be a pre-meeting between the senior officer of the local authority supporting the Schools Forum and the Chair of the Schools Forum to ensure that all the issues are clearly understood.
- 2.21. Equally, the Chair has the responsibility of representing the views of the Schools Forum back to the local authority: for instance, they should, where appropriate, take the initiative to make suggestions for improvements to the way the business is conducted, and, in exceptional cases and with support of the members of the Schools Forum take the view that they do not have sufficient information on which to base a decision and ask that an item is deferred until further information is available. However, in doing so, the Chair and Schools Forum should be fully aware of the consequences of deferral.
- 2.22. The independence of Schools Forum is paramount. Enhancing the role of Chair to a paid position, rather than the reimbursement of reasonable expenses, could blur the lines of independence. Similarly, if the Chair undertakes significant work for the LA in another capacity, e.g. as an external consultant, they could be viewed as equivalent to an officer of the local authority.
- 2.23. Local authorities could consider if sharing contact details of the Schools Forum Chair with neighbouring authorities would be helpful for peer support and improving networking opportunities.

Clerking the Schools Forum

- 2.24. Clerking of a Schools Forum should be seen as more than just writing a note of the meeting. A good clerk provides an invaluable link between the members of the Schools Forum, the Chair and the local authority. It is a role often undertaken by an employee of the local authority though we would recommend consideration is given to the use of an independent clerk.
- 2.25. Clerks should manage the logistics of the meeting in terms of ensuring dispatch of papers and producing a note from the meeting. In considering the style of meeting notes consideration should be given to making them intelligible enough for non-attendees to get a sense of the discussion as well as clearly indicating the

conclusion and action agreed in relation to each agenda item. Verbatim reports of a Schools Forum's discussion, however, are unlikely to be very useful. Schools Forums may consider whether a simple action log should be maintained by the clerk to ensure all action points agreed are followed up.

2.26. Beyond this a good clerk can:

- a. provide the route by which Schools Forum members can access further information and co-ordinate communication to Schools Forum members outside of the formal meeting cycle;
- b. respond to any queries about the business of the Schools Forum from headteachers, governors and others who are not on the Schools Forum themselves;
- c. be responsible for ensuring contact details of all members are up to date;
- d. maintain the list of members on the Schools Forum and advise on membership issues in general;
- e. assist with the co-ordination of nomination/election processes run by the constituent groups;
- f. keep the Schools Forum website up to date: e.g. by posting latest minutes and papers etc;
- g. monitor, on a regular basis, the Schools Forum and general Schools Funding section of the Department for Education (DfE) website or the gov.uk website; and arrange for the distribution of any relevant DfE information to Schools Forum members;
- h. if appropriate, provide technical advice in relation to the Schools Forum regulations and in relation to the operation of a Schools Forum's local constitution; and
- i. organise, operate and record any voting activity of the Schools Forum in line with the provisions of its local constitution.

2.27. Not all of these tasks may be able to be undertaken by the Schools Forum clerk. However, each one is important and there should be arrangements in place to ensure they are discharged adequately.

Good practice for Schools Forum meetings

2.28. Schools Forums should ensure there is a clear debate of all agenda items. Whilst sub-group meetings are valuable in working through detailed issues, Schools Forum should consider that the level of debate held at the Schools Forum meeting and recorded in the minutes will be the official reflection of the level of challenge and discussion on each issue.

2.29. The use of nameplates for Schools Forum members also showing which group they are representing can be helpful to members of the public and presenters of papers.

2.30. The use of coloured cards or coloured nameplates can be helpful when specific members of Schools Forum are eligible to vote on specific items, e.g. de-delegation or changes to the funding formula.

2.31. Consultations with Schools Forum are a key responsibility of a local authority, ranging from the funding formula to the letting of contracts. Each consultation will be different and depend on the subject being consulted on, but local authorities should consider the following factors as good practice for effective consultation:-

- Plan and consult early
- Allow reasonable timescales for response (as Forum members may need to consult the groups they represent)
- An open and honest approach
- Fully inclusive
- Allow for ongoing dialogue
- Provide feedback
- Clear communications.

Meeting notes and recording of decisions

2.32. A vital part of the effective operation of a Schools Forum is to ensure that an accurate record of the meeting is taken. This must include the clear recording of votes where there are contrary views. Recommendations to, and decisions of, Schools Forum must be clearly set out.

2.33. Notes or minutes of each Schools Forum meeting should be produced and put on the website as soon after the meeting as possible to enable members and others to see the outcome of any discussions and decisions/votes. It is good practice to formally agree the accuracy of the note/minutes at a subsequent meeting but the publication of the draft minutes should not be delayed as a result.

2.34. In order to provide clarity about representation at each meeting, it is good practice for the minutes to record the group and/or subgroup that each member represents against their name.

Communication

2.35. Communication to the wider educational community of the discussions and debates of, and decisions made by, Schools Forum is fundamental to their effective operation. The more schools and other stakeholders know about the proceedings of the Schools Forum, the more their work will be an important and central part of the context of local educational funding. This is particularly important given the decision making role that the Schools Forum has. Local authorities should consider the operational differences between the types of stakeholders and plan their communications accordingly. For example ensuring effective communications across the PVI sector may be more difficult than with schools, who are more likely to have existing channels of communication e.g. headteacher meetings.

2.36. Each Schools Forum should therefore be clear what its channels of communication are. One channel is the requirement that all its agenda, minutes and papers are publicly available on the local authority's website. However, the Schools Forum should also consider additional communication processes. These could include:

- a. the reporting back by Schools Forum members to their 'parent' group of the business of the Schools Forum is a key responsibility of Schools Forum members. This can be a particularly useful method of ensuring that Schools Forum members have an ongoing dialogue with the constituents of their group or sub-group and are therefore well able to represent their views at Schools Forum meetings;
- b. an annual report on the proceedings of the Schools Forum;
- c. attendance by the Chair, or other Schools Forum member, at other relevant consultative or management groups such as any capital working group; or senior management meetings of the Children's Services Department; or
- d. a brief email to all schools, early years providers and other stakeholders after each Schools Forum meeting informing them of the discussions and decisions with a link to the full papers and minutes for further information
- e. a Schools Forum newsletter can be a less formal and more interesting way of communicating forum business and raising the profile of Schools Forum and its members.

News updates

- 2.37. Most, but not all, members of the Schools Forum will already be in receipt of regular information on school funding matters from the local authority and DfE. Other Schools Forum members should be copied into such information flows so that they can be kept abreast of developments between meetings.
- 2.38. Many local authorities have already established dedicated Schools Forum websites on which they post key information for Schools Forum members and other interested parties.