



Dudley Schools Forum

**Tuesday 23rd September, 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 8th July, 2014 (attached).
5. Any other matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 8th July, 2014 not included on the agenda for this meeting.
6. Schools with Licensed Deficit Arrangements (Pages 1 - 5)
7. Fairer Schools Funding and Schools Revenue Funding Arrangements in 2015/16 (Pages 6 - 15)
8. Budget Fact Sheet No. 4 (Pages 16 - 17)
9. The Pupil Premium (Pages 18 - 24)
10. Pensnett Site Disposal Update (Verbal)
11. Dudley's Scheme for Financing Schools – Approval of Amendments following Consultation (Pages 25 - 28)
12. Schools Forum Membership Update (Verbal)



Director of Corporate Resources

Dated 15th September, 2014

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

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.

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MINUTES OF DUDLEY SCHOOLS FORUM

Tuesday, 8th July, 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, Mr. J. Kelleher, Mr. B. Oakley,
Mr. B. Patterson, Mrs. H. Ruffles, Mr. B. Warren and Mr. M. Weaver

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 Mr. J. Jablonski (Assistant Principal Officer - Democratic Services), Directorate of Corporate Resources

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Mrs. J. Belcher, Mrs. A. Garrett, Mrs. A. Hannaway, Mr P.Nesbitt, Mrs. J. Quigley, Mr. N. Shaw, Mr. D. Ward and Mrs. G. Withers.

2. Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Schools Forum held on 3rd June, 2014, be approved as a correct record and signed.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No issues were raised under this Agenda item.

4. Dudley's Schools' Delegated Reserves 2013/14

Prior to the commencement of consideration of this matter, the Chair declared a personal interest in relation to the aspect of this matter relating to the Coseley School. Having declared his interest, he withdrew from the meeting during the consideration of this matter.

Mrs. Wylie (Vice Chair) (in the Chair)

A report of the Interim Director of Children's Services was submitted on financial data in respect of Dudley's schools' reserves for the 2013/14 financial year ended 31st March, 2014.

Table 1 of the report and Appendix A set out the position in more detail.

Consideration was also given to an application for a licensed deficit as indicated in paragraph 8 of the report submitted in respect of the Coseley School.

Following consideration of these matters, it was

Resolved

- (1) That the detailed School Reserves as at 31st March, 2014, as listed at Appendix A of this report, be noted, before publication by the Department for Education.
- (2) That the position whereby, due to falling pupil numbers and a forecast deficit budget position, the Coseley School had submitted an application for a licensed deficit be noted and that it be further noted that this would require endorsement by the Vice Chair of Schools Forum and the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning in addition to the Director of Children's Services and the Treasurer and that an update in respect of the School's recovery plan would be reported to Forum at the September meeting.

At the conclusion of this matter, Mrs. Wylie vacated the Chair.

Mr. Ridney - in the Chair

5. Dudley's Behavioural Pupil Referral Unit Review and Restructure

A report of the Interim Director of Children's Services was submitted on the latest position in respect of the Pupil Referral Unit behavioural service (Sycamore Short Stay School) review and restructure following the implementation of the 2013/14 Department for Education school funding reforms.

Arising from consideration of this item, it was noted that the school was on-line to have a balanced budget by 2015/16, given the measures taken.

Resolved

That the updated position of the Sycamore Short Stay School following planned relocation onto a single site and staffing structure be noted and that a further update be provided in the Spring of 2015.

6. Financial Support from the High Needs Block for Rosewood Special School

A report of the Interim Director of Children's Services was submitted on the proposed provision of financial assistance to Rosewood Special School in 2014/15 from the High Needs Block within the Schools Budget of the Dedicated Schools Grant.

It was reported that the support requested would enable the school to continue functioning and adapt to any changes.

Resolved

That the information contained in the report submitted on the current financial difficulties of Rosewood School be noted and that support be given to the local authority's financial strategy to provide Rosewood School with funding of up to £45,000 for the 2014/15 financial year from the High Needs Block contingency budget which was available to assist Special Schools and Pupil Referral Units in financial difficulties.

7. Feedback on the Consultation on School Funding Arrangements and Changes for 2015/16

A report of the Interim Director of Children's Services was submitted on feedback from consultation held so that a decision could be reached on proposed changes to the school funding arrangements for mainstream schools prior to implementation for the 2015/16 financial year.

During the consideration of this matter an updated Table 1 to the report was circulated at the meeting detailing all the responses that had been received arising from the consultation held on the two questions outlined in that table.

This information had been considered at a meeting of the Budget Working Group held on 2nd July, 2014 and that group had recommended approval of the proposals contained in the updated table.

It was also noted that the Budget Working Group would be giving further consideration, on an on-going basis, to the issue of funding for deprivation and following such consideration would make recommendations to this forum.

Resolved

That, arising from votes taken by those Schools Forum members eligible to vote on this matter:-

- (1) in relation to the question, do you prefer Option 1 (25% clawback of gains) or Option 2 (no clawback of gains) in order to meet the cost of funding the Minimum Funding Guarantee in 2015/16? approval be given to the implementation of Option 2 to remove the clawback of gains for 2015/16; and
- (2) in relation to the question, do you agree that any additional funding that becomes available within the schools budget should be allocated to funding for deprivation? approval be given to the allocation of any permanent funding that becomes available in the schools budget to funding for deprivation.

8. Department for Education Fair Funding Conference - 4th June, 2014

A note setting out Department for Education headlines arising from the Fair Funding Conference held on 4th June, 2014, and details in relation to those headlines was submitted.

Consideration was given to each of the headlines in turn and particular comments were made as follows:-

- That in relation to the Priority School Building Programme - Capital Bids - Round 2, an expression of interest would be submitted by the required date of 21st July, 2014.

- In relation to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities/Education Healthcare Plans, Mr Warren raised a concern in respect of the funding for teaching assistants, it was noted that this matter would be discussed by the Budget Working Group.
- In relation to the School Improvement Ofsted of Local Authorities, in particular the use of resources criteria, it was reported that further research from the inspections held would be carried out on this particular criteria.
- It was noted, that, as indicated in the note, a number of reports would be submitted to future Forum meetings on the headlines indicated in the note.

Resolved

That the information contained in the note submitted and, as commented on at the meeting, in relation to headlines arising from the Department for Education Fair Funding Conference, 4th June, 2014, be noted.

9. Allocation of Dedicated Schools Grants Reserved 2015/16

Arising from the consideration given at the last meeting of the Forum to the Dedication Schools Grant Outturn, 2013/14 and the consideration given by the Budget Working Group to the allocation of the Dedicated Schools Grant Reserve, 2015/16 ,an oral report was given on the consideration given by the Budget Working Group at its meeting on 2nd July, 2014, to this matter.

Arising from the consideration given to the proposed allocation of £2 million in 2015/16 to all schools on a lump sum basis two options were considered, the first, the sharing equally of the £2 million between all schools so that each primary and secondary received £18,500 and, given the implications of this allocation when it was considered on a per pupil basis, an Option 2 involving an allocation of £14,000 to each primary school and £38,500 to each secondary school broadly reflecting the size of the schools.

The recommendation of the Budget Working Group was that consultation should be held on both options but that the preferred option was Option 2.

It was, therefore, reported that there would be a six weeks consultation period commencing on 8th September and ending on 18th October with implementation in April, 2015 of the preferred option.

The Schools Forum would receive a further report at its meeting to be held on 21st October, 2014, when the consultation responses would be considered before a final decision was made. It was proposed that special schools, pupil referral units and nursery schools would receive an allocation equivalent to that of a primary school and that comments on this should be fed back through the consultation process .

Resolved

That the options for consultation and related arrangements relating to the allocation of dedicated school grant reserve in 2015/16, as indicated above, be noted.

10. Effectiveness of Family Support Workers for 2 Year Olds in Children's Centres and Private, Voluntary and Independent Sector Nurseries

It was reported that the Budget Working Group would be giving further consideration to this matter with a report back to a subsequent meeting of this Forum.

11. Pensnett Site Disposal Update

An oral update was given on this item with particular reference to the retention on site of the sports facility, given its funding using lottery monies and proposals for a post-16 support facility for persons with learning difficulties.

Arising from the comments made and in response to a query, it was stated that existing providers had not been consulted on the proposals in relation to the post-16 facility and arising from a question regarding the need for a closer relationship between the closure of a school and the re-use of the site or its sale, it was stated that the need for this was recognised.

Resolved

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

12. Union Facilities Time

It was reported that further consideration had been given, as requested, by the Budget Working Group to this matter and that at their recent meeting, further information had been submitted but also additional information requested on particular aspects of this matter. Further consideration would be given to this issue at the meeting of the Budget Working Group to be held in September with a report back to a subsequent meeting of this Forum.

Resolved

That the information reported on be noted.

13. Schools Forum Proposed Meetings 2014/15 Academic Year

A report of the Interim Director of Children's Services was submitted on a schedule of proposed meeting dates for the 2014/15 Academic Year. Appendix A to the report also set out details of proposed items to be discussed at meetings of the Forum together with agenda setting dates and dates of the Budget Working Group.

Resolved

That approval be given to the holding of meetings of Schools Forum on the following dates:-

23rd September, 2014
21st October, 2014
25th November, 2014
16th December, 2014
27th January, 2015
24th February, 2015
24th March, 2015
2nd June, 2015
7th July, 2015

all meetings to commence at 6.00 p.m. and be held at Saltwells Educational Development Centre and that the other details contained in Appendix A be noted.

14. Attendance at Forum Meetings

In view of the fact that this meeting of the Forum was nearly inquorate concerns were expressed at non-attendance by members at Forum meetings. It was considered that there was a need for persons appointed to attend meetings of the Forum or if they could not attend, to arrange for a substitute to attend.

15. Provision of a Précis Version of Matters Considered at Forum Meetings

A comment was made that approximately two years ago consideration had been given to the provision of a brief précis note in layman's language regarding matters considered at Forum meetings so that this could be made available to people in the borough.

Arising from the comments made, it was considered that it would be useful for this to be pursued and the Children's Services Finance Manager indicated that consideration will be given to pursuing this.

The meeting ended at 7.20 p.m.

CHAIR

Schools Forum 23rd September 2014

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

Schools With Licensed Deficit Arrangements

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Schools Forum of the latest financial monitoring arrangements in place for the Coseley School.

Budget Working Group Discussed

2. Yes – 12th September 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 approved the latest Dudley's Scheme for Financing Schools on 21st January 2014. This document includes Planning for Deficit Budgets at paragraph 4.5 and the process to be followed by a Dudley school when applying for a Licensed Deficit is detailed at paragraph 4.9.2.

Action for Schools Forum

6. To note the latest financial position in respect of the Coseley School who have a licensed deficit arrangement in place for the 2014/15 financial year.

Attachments to Report

7. None

Karen Cocker
Children's Services Finance Manager
8th September 2014

Schools Forum 23rd September 2014

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

Schools With Licensed Deficit Arrangements

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Schools Forum of the latest financial monitoring arrangements in place for the Coseley School.

Background

2. The Coseley secondary school has foundation school status and is part of the Coseley Co-operative Learning Trust. In 2012 the School was placed into a special measures Ofsted category at which time the local authority put in place an Interim Executive Board to replace the existing Governing Body. The School were moved from a special measures category to requiring improvement in the spring term 2014.
3. From September 2014, the School have an Acting Head, Mrs K Westwood-Jones, who was formally a deputy headteacher at the School.
4. The School, not unlike many Dudley secondary schools, is facing a decline in pupil numbers which are forecast to plateau in 2016/17.

Licensed Deficit Application

5. A maintained Dudley school cannot plan for a budget deficit but may in certain circumstances manage a budget shortfall by means of a licensed deficit the conditions for which are set out in section 4.9.2 of Dudley's Scheme for Financing Schools. The Scheme for Financing Schools can only be amended after consultation with all schools and approval by the Schools Forum.
6. The criteria and conditions for a licensed deficit are set out in the schools' Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the Licensed Deficit Scheme for Maintained Schools. This was created in 2004 and is reviewed biennially by the Directorate of Children's Services with support from the Treasurer's Accountancy Division.
7. A licensed deficit is funded against the collective surplus of school balances held by the local authority on behalf of all maintained schools. A school may submit a licensed deficit application to borrow from the collective surplus of school balances in order to set a balanced delegated budget. The following conditions will apply:

- The maximum length of a loan will normally be 3 years unless a longer period is agreed by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Chair of the School's Forum;
- The maximum amount borrowed will normally be 3% of the school's budget share unless a greater amount is agreed by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Chair of the School's Forum;
- No more than 10% of the collective surplus of school balances will normally be available for loan, unless a greater proportion is agreed with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Chair of the School's Forum;
- A school wishing to borrow under this scheme must submit a detailed application in the form required by the LA, stating clearly how the deficit has arisen, what action is being taken to reduce the deficit and how the school will be able to set a balanced budget by the end of the loan term;
- It is expected that other than in exceptional circumstances applications for licensed deficits will be received in the appropriate format by 1st May of the year for which the licensed deficit is required.

Coseley School Licensed Deficit Application

8. At the 2013/14 financial year end, the Coseley School reported an unplanned deficit budget position of £59,064 against a delegated budget of £4.094m; this information was reported to Schools Forum at the June meeting together with Dudley school's outturn position.
9. At the December 2013 quarterly financial monitoring stage, the School reported an in year deficit of £87,666, but after the use of accumulated reserves a balanced budget was forecast.
10. However, between January and March 2014 the School's expenditure, particularly in respect of teaching supply, building works and expenditure related to their Ofsted category of special measures, was in excess of their budget thus resulting in a year end unplanned deficit of £59,064.
11. In accordance with the SOP for Schools with Anticipated In Year Deficit, which is a notification from a school to the local authority advising the Director of Children's Services of an in year deficit budget position, the relevant notification was received from the School on 29th April 2014 which was two days before the 2014/15 budget creation form was due to be submitted to the local authority.
12. The Dudley Scheme for Fair Funding outlines that unplanned deficit balances will be carried forward by the deduction of the relevant amounts from the following year's budget share; thus the £59,064 was technically a deduction from Coseley's

2014/15 delegated budget.

13. Local authority discussions with the School identified that they would not be in a position to balance their 2014/15 delegated budget and therefore the School was advised to submit a licensed deficit application. This was received on 8th July 2014 with a very brief discussion held at Schools Forum on that evening due to the requirement for the application to be signed by the Chair of Schools Forum.
14. The licensed deficit application for 2014/15 is for £283,480. This will be repayable over a five year period. The School have recently undertaken a staffing restructure in order to address the budget issues and dependant upon pupil numbers and their budget allocation for future years, then additional restructure plans maybe necessary.
15. Coseley's licensed deficit application has been approved by the local authority.
16. Mrs Cocker, the Children's Services Finance Manager and Mrs Coates, the Senior Principal Accountant Schools are working closely with the School in respect of the financial planning arrangements necessary to satisfy the local authority and the Treasurer.
17. Mr Powell, the Acting Assistant Director for Education Services, is working with the School to support leadership and management and the Interim Director of Children's Services is considering options for the School in the longer term.

2014/15 Monitoring

18. With the approval of the licensed deficit, the School are now in a position to set a balanced budget for 2014/15.
19. In line with the licensed deficit application, the School will need to provide monthly income and expenditure budget monitoring information to the local authority in addition to the standard quarterly financial monitoring returns. To date the School is forecasting the 2014/15 budget position to be on target. Regular monitoring updates will be presented to Schools Forum to provide reassurances that the School are proceeding according to their financial plan.

Finance

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

Law

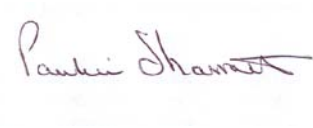
23. Councils' LMS Schemes are made under Section 48 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The Education Acts 1996 and 2002 also have provisions relating to school funding.

Equality Impact

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

Recommendation

25. Schools Forum to note that the Coseley School's licensed deficit application has been approved for 2014/15 and that the latest financial monitoring position is in accordance with the plan agreed with the local authority. Regular updates will be presented to Schools Forum.



Pauline Sharratt
Interim Director of Children's Services

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Schools Forum 23rd September 2014

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

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

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Schools Forum of the latest information published by the DfE in respect of Fairer Schools Funding and Revenue Funding Arrangements for 2015/16.

Budget Working Group Discussed

2. Yes – 12th September 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. The Authority may consult the forum on such other matters concerning the funding of schools as they see fit.

Action for Schools Forum

6. To note the latest information published by the DfE in respect of Fairer Schools Funding and Revenue Funding Arrangements for 2015/16.

Attachments to Report

7. Appendix A – Schools Block Unit of Funding (Minimum Funding Level) for Dudley 2015/16.
8. Appendix B - Annex B extract from "Fairer School Funding Arrangements" providing detail of Local Authorities that will receive Minimum Funding Level allocations.

Sue Coates
Senior Principal Accountant
8th September 2014

Schools Forum 23rd September 2014

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

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

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Schools Forum of the latest information published recently by the DfE in respect of Fairer Schools Funding and Revenue Funding Arrangements for 2015/16.

Fairer Schools Funding

2. A consultation on the proposed methodology to be applied in determining the allocation of £350m to set a Minimum Funding Level (MFL) that each authority should attract for its pupils and schools was reported to Schools Forum at the meeting held on 29th April 2014. This proposed that if a local authority attracts less than these minimum funding levels its budget will be increased so that it meets the MFL identified for that authority.
3. As discussed at the Schools Forum meeting a response to the consultation was submitted on behalf of Schools Forum and the Interim Director of Children's Services on 30th April 2014.
4. On 17th July 2014 David Laws made a statement to the House of Commons confirming the outcomes of the consultation and that the allocation for 2015/16 has subsequently increased to £390m which will be made available to the least fairly funded local areas in England.
5. Full detail of the Government response to the consultation is available at :
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/331572/fairer_school_funding_for_2015_to_2016_government_response.pdf
6. The methodology, as summarised in Table 1, has been applied to the base data for Dudley and shows that the authority is not eligible for additional funding; the total estimated Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for Dudley will be approximately £1.7m above the MFL in 2015/16. Dudley's per pupil MFL for 2015/16 is £4,419.75 and will actually receive £4,459.29 per pupil (cash value "frozen" at 2014/15 values).

Table 1-Minimum Funding Levels 2015/16

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Value</u> £	<u>Comments</u>
A per pupil amount	Primary £2,880 KS3 £3,950 KS4 £4,502	Based on October 2014 pupil data.
Deprivation	Between £882 and £1,871 per pupil.	Based on pupils eligible for Free School Meals and /or lives in and IDACI (Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index) Bands 1-6.
Looked After Children	£1,004 per pupil who has been looked after for one day or more.	Based on the annual return submitted to the DfE by the Local Authority (LA).
Pupils with Low Prior Attainment	Primary £669 Secondary £940	Primary – EYFSP. Secondary – pupils not reaching level 4 in either English or Maths.
English as an additional language.	Primary £466 Secondary £1,130	Based on pupils who have entered the English state school system in the last three years.
Lump Sum	Primary £115,797 Secondary £125,155	Amount per school.
Sparsity Sum	Primary £44,635 Secondary £66,656	Not Applicable for Dudley.
Area Cost Adjustment (ACA)	Factor applied for Dudley x 1.003451	Applied to MFL as calculated above

7. Further information regarding the detailed calculation of the MFL for Dudley is attached at Appendix A to this report for information. A list of all Local Authorities that will receive Minimum Funding level allocations is attached at Appendix B to this report.
8. Full detail confirming the Fairer Schools Funding arrangements is available at : https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/332652/Fairer_schools_funding_arrangements_for_2015_to_2016.pdf

2015/16 Revenue Funding Arrangements: Operational Information for Local Authorities

9. On 17th July the Director of the Education Funding Group notified all Directors of Children’s Services of Schools Revenue Funding Arrangements for 2015/16 along with publication of a detailed operational guide.

10. There is minimal change to the revenue funding arrangements for 2015/16 however key points contained within the operational guidance are summarised information:

- The schools block unit of funding in 2015/16 will be at least the same value as in 2014/15; paragraph 9 above refers,
- Early Years block funding will be confirmed shortly.
- Funding for 2 year olds will be based on participation (unlike previous years which was based on an allocation from the DfE).
- There are no prescribed constraints on ratios for primary : secondary delegated funding however the Education Funding Agency have not ruled this out for future years. The overall ratio nationally is 1: 1.27 (for Dudley is currently 1: 1.21).
- A commitment has been made that the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) will continue beyond 2015/16 but the level of the MFG is subject to the outcomes of the Comprehensive Spending Review.
- Minor changes are proposed to the Schools Forum Regulations which will be consulted upon; this will require a change to the Schools Forum Constitution.
- The DfE will equalise the deductions made to the Dedicated Schools Grant in respect of mainstream schools Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) scheme in 2014/15. For 2014/15 a deduction was made to the DSG based on the budget cost declared by the local authority. However for 2015/16 a simple deduction of £7.51 per pupil will be made to the DSG of all local authorities; Dudley will benefit from this change by approx £3.61 per pupil or £170k in total. This funding will be returned to the Schools Block.
- The funding of places in Alternative Provision (AP) will increase from £8k per place to £10k per place from September 2015; the DfE would expect to see reductions in top-up funding to counter balance the change.
- There will be some additional funding available for the high needs block in 2015/16 which will be distributed on a per capita of population basis (using the 2 – 19 year old age range).
- Guidance on the criteria to be applied to targeted support above the notional SEN budget.
- Guidance in respect of a Growth Fund which may be created by top-slicing the DSG to support schools which are required to provide extra places in order to meet basic need within the authority. Approval of criteria and methodology will be required from Schools Forum and a future report will be brought to Schools Forum during the Autumn term.

11. A copy of the operational guide is available at :

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/331368/Schools_revenue_funding_2015_to_2016_operational_guide.pdf

School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2014

12. A consultation was launched on 8th August 2014 and closes on 17th October 2014 with regard to proposed changes to the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2014; effective date 1st January 2014.

13. The proposed changes are in order to make the Regulations relevant to 2015/16 and to take account of a period of transition with regard to transfer from statements of Special Educational Need (SEN) and learning difficulty assessments to Education Health and Care (EHC) plans. Other changes are as a result of the Fairer Schools Funding arrangements for 2015/16. The proposed changes are summarised in Table 2.

Table 2 - Proposed changes to the School and Early Years Finance Regulations

<u>Finance Regulation</u>	<u>Detail</u>
Regulation 3	Makes amendments to the Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012 to ensure that special academies and AP academies are represented on Schools Forums, and to ensure that places to be commissioned by the authority and arrangements for paying top-up funding are discussed.
Regulation 14 (1)	Clarifies that provision for sixth form places in special schools is at £10,000 and that this provision does not include hospital provision or those students over 19 years of age.
Regulation 14 (1) and paragraph 18 of Schedule 2	DSG must not be used to fund places or top-up for 19-25 year olds in special schools and special academies
Regulation 14 (3)	The change in value of an AP place from £8,000 to £10,000 a year.
Regulation 16 and Schedule 2, paragraph 15 (c)	Require the LA to pay the early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) of 53p per hour direct to all early years' providers. Children are eligible if they meet the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals (FSM); they have been looked after by the LA for at least one day; they have been adopted from care; they have left care through special guardianship; or they are subject to a child arrangement order.
Regulation 21 (2)	A revised provision for the determination of budgets for new maintained schools and schools that have opened in recent years and are still adding year groups.
Schedule 1 paragraph 10 (e) and Schedule 2 , paragraph 13	Reflects that with regard to remission of boarding fees – expenditure is expected to fall within the schools budget.
Former paragraph 26 of Schedule 1	Relating to teachers' emoluments in circumstances where they have failed to complete induction satisfactorily has been deleted – no longer expect this expenditure to fall outside the schools budget.
Schedule 2 , paragraph 14	Early Years expenditure retained centrally cannot relate to an excluded provider. (Definition of excluded provider added to Regulation 1).
Paragraph 18 of Schedule 2	Now includes persons aged 19 – 25 years of age with and EHC plan but not where they are attending schools or academies.
Schedule 3, paragraphs 14 and 15	Reflects policy of setting thresholds for average year group size rather than schools size to decide whether a school should receive funding through the sparsity factor.

14. Full consultation and draft School Finance Regulations are available at

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/341923/Consultation_Document - School and Early Years Finance England Regulations 2014.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/341923/Consultation_Document_-_School_and_Early_Years_Finance_England_Regulations_2014.pdf)

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:

- a. the latest information published by the DfE in respect of Fairer Schools Funding and Revenue Funding Arrangements for 2015/16;
- b. that the Schools Finance Regulations are subject to consultation until October 2014, therefore a further updated position will be reported to Schools Forum at that time to include an amendment to the Constitution.



Pauline Sharratt
Interim Director of Children's Services

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Appendix A

Calculation of Schools Block Units of Funding for 2015-16

Dudley

Factor	Unit value	Pupil numbers (Note 1) or number of schools	Funding before area cost adjustment (ACA)	
Age-weighted pupil unit (AWPU) - primary	£2,880.41	25,189	£72,554,537.41	
AWPU - key stage 3	£3,949.51	10,467	£41,339,500.91	
AWPU - key stage 4	£4,501.80	7,284	£32,791,102.28	
FSM 6 - primary	£882.39	6,824	£6,021,116.61	
FSM 6 - secondary	£1,051.70	4,911	£5,165,325.88	
IDACI 1 - primary	£209.14	2,594	£542,411.63	
IDACI 2 - primary	£260.19	2,332	£606,704.35	
IDACI 3 - primary	£346.79	5,380	£1,865,866.76	
IDACI 4 - primary	£421.67	2,689	£1,133,921.14	
IDACI 5 - primary	£476.84	714	£340,349.17	
IDACI 6 - primary	£691.15	578	£399,585.02	
IDACI 1 - secondary	£289.06	1,668	£482,092.79	
IDACI 2 - secondary	£378.88	1,667	£631,468.85	
IDACI 3 - secondary	£470.32	3,646	£1,714,776.60	
IDACI 4 - secondary	£554.08	1,914	£1,060,339.19	
IDACI 5 - secondary	£614.08	417	£256,155.56	
IDACI 6 - secondary	£818.79	323	£264,491.67	
Looked-after children	£1,003.80	345	£345,916.83	
Low prior attainment - primary 78	£669.38	7,498	£5,018,937.79	
Low prior attainment - secondary	£940.07	4,354	£4,092,903.38	
English as an additional language 3 - primary	£465.70	1,788	£832,736.98	
English as an additional language 3 - secondary	£1,129.65	120	£135,623.70	
Lump sum - primary	£115,797.02	78	£9,032,167.74	
Lump sum - secondary	£125,155.40	20	£2,503,107.93	
Lump sum - middle schools		0	£0.00	
Sparsity - primary	£44,635.47	0	£0.00	
Sparsity - secondary	£66,656.37	0	£0.00	
Total before area cost adjustment (ACA)			£189,131,140.16	
ACA				1.003451
Funding including ACA (using 2014-15 pupil numbers) (Note 1)				£189,783,920.45
Total number of 2014-15 pupils (Note 1)				42,940
A. Per-pupil amount after applying minimum funding levels				£4,419.75
B. Actual 2014-15 schools block unit of funding under dedicated schools grant				£4,459.29
2015-16 funding per pupil (the greater of A and B above) (Notes 2 and 3)				£4,459.29

Notes

- 2014-15 pupil numbers are taken from the October 2013 school census and were included in the prepopulated authority proforma tool (APT) sent to local authorities.
- This is before adjustment for carbon reduction commitment.
- This is the final 2015-16 schools block funding per pupil. It will not be amended when 2015-16 pupil numbers are published.

Annex B – Changes to local authority funding for 2015-2016

The following table shows changes to schools funding as a result of distributing an additional £390m using the approach set out in chapter one of this document. This table does not reflect deductions of funding for the CRC scheme from the dedicated schools grant, which are shown at Annex C for every local authority. In this table we have estimated total funding, and the total increase in funding, by using 2014-15 pupil numbers. We will apply pupil numbers from the October 2014 census when final allocations are made in December.

Local authority	Actual 2014-15 funding		Fairer schools funding 2015-16		Increase in funding	
	Funding per pupil	Total funding	Funding per pupil	Estimate of total funding (based on October 2013 pupil numbers)	Percentage	Estimate of total increase in funding (based on October 2013 pupil numbers)
Bromley	£4,082	£169.6m	£4,553	£189.1m	11.5%	£19.5m
Cambridgeshire	£3,950	£294.3m	£4,261	£317.5m	7.9%	£23.2m
Sutton	£4,360	£124.7m	£4,678	£133.8m	7.3%	£9.1m
Northumberland	£4,244	£166.2m	£4,551	£178.3m	7.2%	£12.0m
Shropshire	£4,113	£143.6m	£4,410	£154.0m	7.2%	£10.4m
Merton	£4,534	£98.6m	£4,832	£105.1m	6.6%	£6.5m
Buckinghamshire	£4,040	£275.4m	£4,305	£293.4m	6.5%	£18.0m
Croydon	£4,559	£208.6m	£4,837	£221.3m	6.1%	£12.7m
Leicestershire	£3,995	£339.7m	£4,237	£360.2m	6.1%	£20.6m
Brent	£5,066	£190.7m	£5,357	£201.7m	5.8%	£11.0m
South Gloucestershire	£3,969	£137.5m	£4,196	£145.3m	5.7%	£7.9m
Warwickshire	£4,079	£281.3m	£4,302	£296.7m	5.5%	£15.4m
Cheshire West and Chester	£4,129	£173.6m	£4,351	£183.0m	5.4%	£9.4m
Surrey	£4,096	£548.8m	£4,308	£577.1m	5.2%	£28.4m
Bury	£4,230	£111.1m	£4,441	£116.7m	5.0%	£5.6m
Poole	£4,007	£68.3m	£4,194	£71.5m	4.7%	£3.2m
Devon	£4,156	£358.1m	£4,350	£374.8m	4.7%	£16.7m
Norfolk	£4,334	£432.9m	£4,514	£450.9m	4.2%	£18.0m
Derbyshire	£4,245	£405.0m	£4,417	£421.3m	4.0%	£16.3m
Rutland	£4,087	£20.9m	£4,250	£21.7m	4.0%	£0.8m

Local authority	Actual 2014-15 funding		Fairer schools funding 2015-16		Increase in funding	
	Funding per pupil	Total funding	Funding per pupil	Estimate of total funding (based on October 2013 pupil numbers)	Percentage	Estimate of total increase in funding (based on October 2013 pupil numbers)
North Lincolnshire	£4,316	£95.0m	£4,483	£98.7m	3.9%	£3.7m
Gloucestershire	£4,203	£316.0m	£4,365	£328.2m	3.9%	£12.2m
Westminster	£5,663	£88.3m	£5,872	£91.5m	3.7%	£3.3m
Central Bedfordshire	£4,144	£145.7m	£4,297	£151.0m	3.7%	£5.3m
Swindon	£4,102	£117.7m	£4,251	£121.9m	3.6%	£4.3m
Windsor and Maidenhead	£4,325	£77.5m	£4,464	£80.0m	3.2%	£2.5m
Herefordshire	£4,306	£90.9m	£4,443	£93.8m	3.2%	£2.9m
North Yorkshire	£4,338	£316.5m	£4,473	£326.4m	3.1%	£9.8m
Cheshire East	£4,083	£187.0m	£4,209	£192.7m	3.1%	£5.7m
Redbridge	£4,668	£199.7m	£4,806	£205.6m	3.0%	£5.9m
Cumbria	£4,449	£269.2m	£4,577	£276.9m	2.9%	£7.8m
Suffolk	£4,241	£370.1m	£4,362	£380.6m	2.8%	£10.5m
Stoke-on-Trent	£4,507	£145.1m	£4,622	£148.8m	2.5%	£3.7m
Northamptonshire	£4,189	£395.2m	£4,293	£405.1m	2.5%	£9.9m
Bracknell Forest	£4,187	£62.6m	£4,291	£64.2m	2.5%	£1.6m
Bournemouth	£4,154	£79.2m	£4,254	£81.1m	2.4%	£1.9m
Salford	£4,551	£131.2m	£4,657	£134.3m	2.3%	£3.1m
Wiltshire	£4,213	£249.1m	£4,310	£254.8m	2.3%	£5.7m
Worcestershire	£4,231	£291.5m	£4,328	£298.2m	2.3%	£6.7m
Torbay	£4,305	£69.8m	£4,399	£71.3m	2.2%	£1.5m
Blackpool	£4,459	£80.2m	£4,538	£81.6m	1.8%	£1.4m
Somerset	£4,278	£273.2m	£4,351	£277.9m	1.7%	£4.7m
Cornwall	£4,397	£285.0m	£4,472	£289.9m	1.7%	£4.9m
Hertfordshire	£4,320	£670.3m	£4,392	£681.5m	1.7%	£11.1m
Durham	£4,573	£281.1m	£4,648	£285.8m	1.7%	£4.7m
Telford and Wrekin	£4,367	£97.0m	£4,435	£98.5m	1.6%	£1.5m
Dorset	£4,167	£202.3m	£4,230	£205.4m	1.5%	£3.1m
Solihull	£4,188	£130.2m	£4,237	£131.8m	1.2%	£1.5m
Lincolnshire	£4,329	£392.0m	£4,379	£396.6m	1.2%	£4.5m

Local authority	Actual 2014-15 funding		Fairer schools funding 2015-16		Increase in funding	
	Funding per pupil	Total funding	Funding per pupil	Estimate of total funding (based on October 2013 pupil numbers)	Percentage	Estimate of total increase in funding (based on October 2013 pupil numbers)
Oxfordshire	£4,274	£333.1m	£4,320	£336.6m	1.1%	£3.5m
East Riding of Yorkshire	£4,258	£177.9m	£4,301	£179.7m	1.0%	£1.8m
Isle of Wight	£4,489	£69.6m	£4,531	£70.3m	0.9%	£0.6m
Wokingham	£4,125	£88.2m	£4,158	£88.9m	0.8%	£0.7m
Bedford	£4,466	£101.0m	£4,501	£101.7m	0.8%	£0.8m
Peterborough	£4,490	£124.7m	£4,520	£125.5m	0.7%	£0.8m
Plymouth	£4,364	£140.1m	£4,389	£140.9m	0.6%	£0.8m
Bath and North East Somerset	£4,336	£95.9m	£4,356	£96.3m	0.5%	£0.5m
Warrington	£4,219	£119.7m	£4,236	£120.2m	0.4%	£0.5m
West Berkshire	£4,359	£95.2m	£4,375	£95.6m	0.4%	£0.4m
Milton Keynes	£4,440	£167.3m	£4,455	£167.9m	0.3%	£0.6m
Medway	£4,352	£161.1m	£4,365	£161.6m	0.3%	£0.5m
Hillingdon	£4,820	£187.0m	£4,832	£187.5m	0.2%	£0.4m
West Sussex	£4,196	£414.5m	£4,206	£415.4m	0.2%	£0.9m
Nottinghamshire	£4,351	£436.2m	£4,360	£437.1m	0.2%	£0.9m
Barnsley	£4,459	£126.9m	£4,468	£127.1m	0.2%	£0.2m
Bolton	£4,536	£188.1m	£4,541	£188.3m	0.1%	£0.2m
Trafford	£4,232	£139.4m	£4,235	£139.5m	0.1%	£0.1m
Sheffield	£4,429	£290.8m	£4,430	£290.9m	0.0%	£0.1m
Staffordshire	£4,310	£455.7m	£4,311	£455.8m	0.0%	£0.1m

Directorate of Children's Services

Budget Fact Sheet

No. 4 – September 2014

Response to Local Consultation on School Funding Arrangements and Proposed Changes for 2015/16

Schools were invited to respond to a consultation in respect of proposed changes to the local funding arrangements for mainstream schools for 2015/16.

The consultation closed on 27th June 2014 and 12 responses were received. A summary of the responses received was presented to Schools Forum at the meeting on 8th July 2014. Schools Forum supported the following proposals made by the Interim Director of Children's Services:

- to remove the clawback of funding in order to fund the Minimum Funding Guarantee for 2015/16; and
- to allocate any additional funding available within the schools budget to deprivation in 2015/16.

These changes will be effective from April 2015.

Consultation - Directorate Support to Schools in 2014/15 and 2015/16

A consultation document is scheduled for publication week commencing 8th September regarding proposals to allocate additional one off funding of £4m to schools over a two year period; 2015/16 and 2016/17.

The consultation seeks views on the methodology to be applied and closes on 18th October 2014. A copy of the full consultation document is available at <http://www.dudley.gov.uk/about/directorates/children-services/consultation-documents/>

A summary of the responses received will be presented to Schools Forum on 21st October 2014, and the Director of Children's Services will formalise decisions at Directorate Strategic Leadership Team (DSLTL) on or before 31st December 2014.

Consultation - De-delegations 2015/16

A consultation document is due to be published week commencing 22nd September 2014 which seeks views regarding "School Funding Arrangements – De-delegation Options for Maintained Mainstream Schools for 2015/16 Financial Year". The consultation closes on 4th November 2014; a summary of the responses will be presented to HTCF-BWG on 21st November for recommendations which will be taken to the Schools Forum meeting on 25th November. The final decision will be made by Schools Forum members representing maintained mainstream schools. Your views are important in order for Schools Forum to make a decision.

A copy of the consultation document will be available at :

<http://www.dudley.gov.uk/about/directorates/children-services/consultation-documents/>

DfE Consultation - Early Years Pupil Premium and funding for 2 year olds

A consultation regarding Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) and Funding for 2 year olds was launched by the DfE on 25th June 2014 until 22nd August 2014.

A number of changes are proposed in particular:

- **A Pupil Premium** of approximately £300 per year (£0.53 per hour) will be introduced for 3 and 4 year olds from low income families effective from April 2015. A child will be eligible if they are three or four years old receiving 15 hours of Government funded early education, **and** meet one of the following criteria:

- Those families meeting the criteria for free school meals;
 - Children that have been looked after for at least one day;
 - Children that have been adopted from care;
 - Children that have left care through special guardianship; and
 - Children subject to a child arrangement order.
- **Funding for two year olds**
 - Will be based on participation rather than the target number of places with effect from September 2015; and
 - Trajectory funding will not be available to Local Authorities from 2015/16.

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

Fairer Schools Funding.

On 17th July 2014 David Laws made a statement to the House of Commons confirming the outcomes of the consultation which proposed a guaranteed Minimum Funding Level (MFL) for all Local Authorities. The allocation for 2015/16 has subsequently increased to £390m which will be made available to the least fairly funded local areas in England. Dudley is not eligible for this additional funding.

Schools Revenue Funding Arrangements in 2015/16.

On 17th July the Director of the Education Funding Group notified all Directors of Children's Services of Schools Revenue Funding Arrangements for 2015/16 along with publication of a detailed operational guide.

Further details will be provided to Schools Forum at the meeting on 23rd September 2014 and will be published on the Schools Forum website following discussion at the meeting.

Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)

With effect from September 2014, schools will receive funding at a flat rate of £2.30 for each meal taken by newly eligible pupils (those pupils not previously entitled to a Free School Meal).

A provisional funding allocation has been paid to each school using Agresso account code SALB for the period September 2014 to March 2015. Further information regarding funding for UIFSM will be issued to schools in due course.

Schools are reminded that where the catering service is provided by Dudley Catering Services a monthly charge reflecting the actual cost for provision of the Universal Infant Free School Meals will be charged to schools using Agresso account code **JZKJ**.

Where the catering service is provided by external contractors then schools will need to liaise directly with their catering provider regarding additional charges for UIFSM.

Dudley's Schools Forum

The Schools Forum internet website which provides useful information including DfE related consultations, Schools Forum regulations and guidance, membership information, minutes of the meetings and dates of future meeting is available at:

<http://www.dudley.gov.uk/community/community-forums/dudley-schools-forum/>

The next Schools Forum meeting will be held at 6.00pm on Tuesday 23rd September 2014 at Saltwells EDC.

Pauline Sharratt, Interim Director of Children's Services

Further Details

Please contact sue.coates@dudley.gov.uk or telephone 01384 814217.

Schools Forum 23rd September 2014

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

The Pupil Premium

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Schools Forum of a recent Ofsted publication in respect of the pupil premium for schools.

Budget Working Group Discussed

2. Yes – 12th September 2014.

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 and to receive a presentation at the next meeting 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
8th September 2014

Schools Forum 23rd September 2014

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

The Pupil Premium

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Schools Forum of a recent Ofsted publication in respect of the pupil premium for schools.

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 for 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 for at least one day as recorded in the March 2014 return. The estimate of grant for Dudley maintained schools for 2014/15 is £1.034m
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.

7. The grant for Looked After Children (LAC) and Post LAC will be payable at £1,900 per pupil.

Ofsted Publication

8. 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.

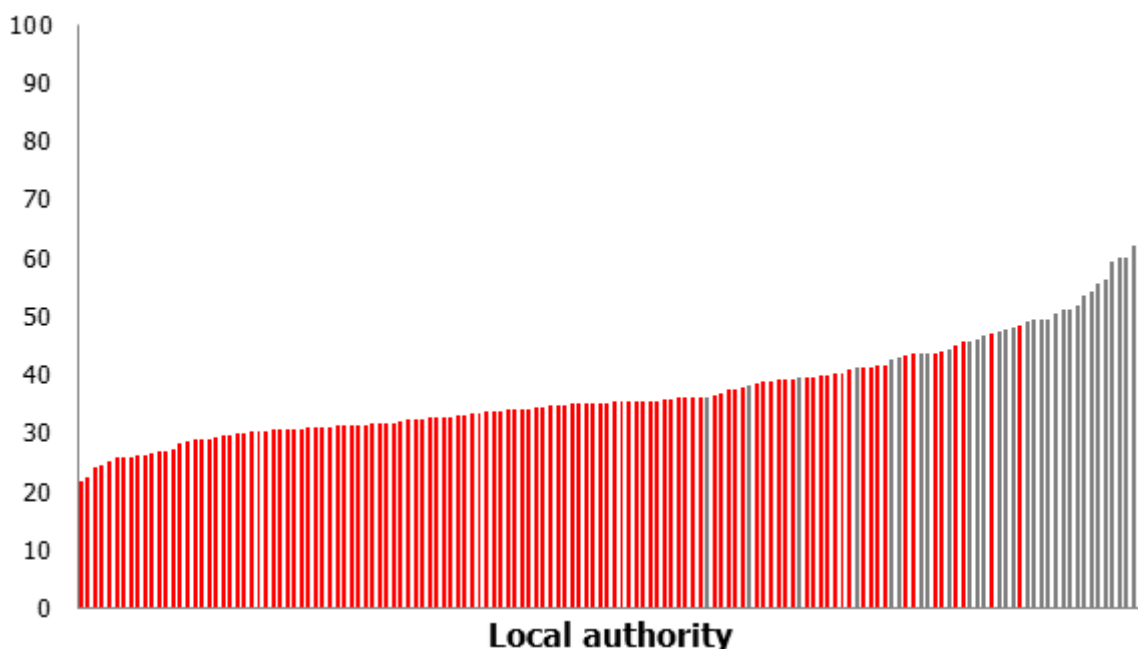
Extract from the Executive Summary

(Page 4 – 7 of Ofsted Report - attached at Appendix 1)

9. 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.
10. 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.
11. Ofsted's increased focus on this issue in all inspections is making a difference. In each report, it now includes a commentary on the attainment and progress of pupils who are eligible for the pupil premium and evaluates 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.
12. 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.
13. 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.

14. 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.
15. 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 Appendix 1 attached, page 22, of the Ofsted annex for the full list of attainment of pupils at GCSE by local authority area).
Figure 1 demonstrates this difference starkly.

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.

16. 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%; Dudley results are 27.5% in 2012 and 31.6% in 2013.

17. Twenty three of the top twenty five 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.
18. 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.
19. 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 twelve 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 fifteen 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. 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.

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.

20. 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.

Dudley's Data

21. Data in respect of Dudley's disadvantaged pupil premium analysis and closing the gap (end of primary and secondary phase outcomes) is available for 2012 and 2013. It is intended that this information is presented to Schools Forum at the October or meeting for information and further discussion.

Finance

22. The funding of schools is prescribed by the Department for Education (DfE) through the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013.

23. Schools Forums are regulated by the regulated by the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012.

24. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct grant; Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

Law

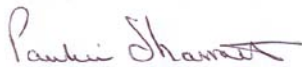
25. Councils' LMS Schemes are made under Section 48 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The Education Acts 1996 and 2002 also have provisions relating to school funding.

Equality Impact

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

Recommendation

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



Pauline Sharratt
Interim Director of Children's Services

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Schools Forum 23rd September 2014

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

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

Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval by Schools Forum for the amendments to the Dudley's Scheme for Financing Schools following a period of consultation during the Summer Term 2014. Following approval the amended scheme will be implemented with immediate effect.

Budget Working Group Discussed

2. Yes – 12th September 2014

Schools Forum Role and Responsibilities

3. The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013 advise on the approval, by the Schools Forum or the Secretary of State, of proposals to revise a local authority's scheme of financing:
 - a. Where a local authority submit a copy of their proposals to revise their scheme to their Schools Forum for approval, the members of the Schools Forum who represent schools maintained by the authority may:
 - i. approve any such proposals;
 - ii. approve any such proposals subject to modifications; or
 - iii. refuse to approve any such proposals.
 - b. Where the Schools Forum approves the proposals to revise the scheme, it may specify the date upon which the revised scheme is to come into force. Where:
 - i. the Schools Forum refuses to approve proposals, or approves any such proposals subject to modifications which are not acceptable to the local authority; or
 - ii. the local authority are not required to establish a schools forum for their area,the authority may apply to the Secretary of State for approval of such proposals.
 - c. The Secretary of State may:
 - i. approve any such proposals;
 - ii. approve any such proposals subject to modifications; or
 - iii. refuse to approve any such proposals.

- d. When approving proposals to revise the scheme, the Secretary of State may specify the date upon which the revised Scheme is to come into force.
- e. No revised scheme is to come into force unless approved by the Schools Forum or the Secretary of State in accordance with Part 4 of the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013.

Action for Schools Forum

4. Schools Forum to note the proposed amendments required in respect of Dudley's Scheme for Financing Schools (as outlined in Appendix A) and, taking into account the consultation response, to approve the revised scheme for immediate implementation.

Attachments to Report

5. Appendix A – Summary of Changes.

Aimee Clarke
Senior Accountant
8th September 2014

Schools Forum 23rd September 14

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

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

Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval by Schools Forum for the amendments to the Dudley's Scheme for Financing Schools following a period of consultation during the Summer Term 2014. Following approval the amended scheme will be implemented with immediate effect

Background

2. Under section 48 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 all local authorities are required to establish and maintain a scheme for financing schools setting out the relationship between the local authority and the schools it maintains.
3. Any revision to the scheme for financing schools must be approved by the Schools Forum or the Secretary of State in accordance with Part 4 of the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013.
4. The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013, schedule 5, lists the issues that all schemes should address. The Department for Education (DfE) provides guidance to local authorities on the more detailed content of their schemes. This guidance is revised from time to time to reflect changes and amendments to legislation and policy directed through the School Finance Regulations.
5. Where the DfE issue revised Schools Finance Regulations, then Dudley's Scheme of Financing is automatically updated and there is no requirement for consultation on these occasions as the amendments are normally formal directions.
6. The Scheme for Financing Schools was last updated in January 2014 for directed revisions effective from 1st August 2013.

Approval Process

7. Schools Forum has the power to approve amendments to the Scheme for Financing Schools without the need for consultation with stakeholders. Full details can be found in Part 4 of the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013.

Proposed Amendments

8. The Scheme for Financing Schools has been updated to reflect both the statutory guidance issued by the DfE in February 2014 and a number of local amendments. A summary of the proposed changes are attached at Appendix A.
9. The proposed changes to the Scheme for Financing Schools were issued for a period of consultation to all schools and stakeholders in the Summer Term 2014. The standard 13 week consultation period was adopted.

Consultation Responses

10. Only one response was received during the consultation period. This response was in support of the proposed changes, as per comments below.
11. Response: "Section 13.1. Now that not all kitchens are under Dudley Catering all kitchens need their own budgets."
12. In response to this comment Dudley do not hold a revenue repairs and maintenance budget for school kitchens.
13. Additional Comments: "It would be useful to have a transparent copy of Dudley Catering finances received from the Government and from Dudley detailing actual expenditure on each kitchen to make sure the allocations are fair."
14. This comment has been passed to the manager of Catering and Client Services to provide a response

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 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 approve Dudley's Scheme for Financing Schools for implementation with immediate effect.



Pauline Sharratt
Interim Director of Children's Services

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