

Schools Forum 18 March 2014

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

Budget Fact Sheet Number 2 – February 2014

Purpose of Report

1. To notify Schools Forum that Budget Fact Sheet number 2 has been issued to schools and to advise Forum in respect of the allocation of funding from the Dedicated Schools Grant reserve.

Discussed at HTCF – BWG

2. Yes –14 March 2014.

Schools Forum Role and Responsibilities

3. From 1 April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct Department for Education (DfE) grant: the Dedicated School Grant (DSG).
4. The 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

Actions for Schools Forum

5. To note the report and the information contained within budget fact sheet number 2 which was issued to schools on 18 February 2014.

Attachments to Report

6. Budget Fact Sheet number 2 – February 2014 – Appendix A.
7. Dedicated Schools Grant Reserve Allocations to schools – Appendix B.
8. Letter to school regarding catering charges from 2014/15 – Appendix C.

Karen Cocker
Children's Services Finance Manager
4 March 2014

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Purpose of Report

1. To notify Schools Forum that Budget Fact Sheet number 2 has been issued to schools and to advise Forum in respect of the allocation of funding from the Dedicated Schools Grant reserve.

Background

2. Budget Fact Sheets are issued regularly to all Dudley schools and a copy can be found on Dudley's Schools Forum website.
3. The Interim Director of Children's Services has agreed to make funds available to schools using the central Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) reserve. Therefore £1m will be distributed to all Dudley schools over a two year period of 2014/15 and 2015/16. Details are included at Appendix B
4. For those schools using Dudley catering services, then these schools will have the option to use this funding to support the increased catering service costs from 2014/15. Further information has been provided to these schools in a letter dated 14 February 2014 which is attached at Appendix C.
5. For those schools that do not purchase Dudley catering services then the funds can be utilised within the school to benefit all pupils.

Finance

6. The funding of schools is prescribed by the Department for Education (DfE) through the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013.
7. Schools Forums are regulated by the regulated by the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012.
8. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct grant; Dedicated School Grant (DSG).
9. If an authority's actual spend on central expenditure is less than its central expenditure budget, the under-spend must be carried forward to support the Schools Budget in future years.

Law


10. 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

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

Recommendation

12. Schools Forum to note the contents of the report.



Pauline Sharratt
Interim Director of Children's Services

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