

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Schools Forum – 6 December 2005

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Distribution of Funding Earmarked For Personalised Learning

Purpose of Report

1. To advise Schools Forum of DfES correspondence issued on 15 November 2005 regarding funding for personalised learning, as identified in the recent White Paper.

Background

2. A copy of the DfES correspondence is attached at Appendix A. This indicates that by 2007/08, an amount of £335 million will be earmarked within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for personalised learning at Key Stage 3. It also announced that the allocation of an additional £60 million in each of 2006/07 and 2007/08 through targeted grants for the National Strategies in the Standards Fund in support of children across all Key Stages who have fallen behind.
3. The DfES letter provides information on how Ministers expect the funding to be targeted. This funding will need to be allocated via the fair funding formulae and therefore authorities must commence preparatory work on this now in time for 2006/07 school budgets.
4. In relation to Key Stage 3, the DfES priorities are:
 - a. First, to provide additional support for pupils who have fallen behind age related expectations, especially English and maths;
 - b. Second, to fund provision for gifted and talented children; and
 - c. Third, to help children from deprived families to access after school and year round activities through the development of extended schools.
5. Full details of individual authorities' allocations will be made available soon.
6. The funds should be distributed in accordance with the school finance regulations and related guidance. Although the funding will not be ring fenced, Ministers expect authorities to use their local distribution formulae

to reflect the government priorities for personalised learning.

7. A further report will be presented to Schools Forum in February 2006, outlining the proposed formulae for Dudley. It is anticipated that the detailed work will be discussed at Head Teachers Consultative Forum – Budget Working Group prior to the Schools Forum meeting.

Proposals

8. It is proposed that Schools Forum note the DfES correspondence dated 15 November 2005 in respect of Personalised Learning and the requirement for the authority to incorporate a formula into the Dudley fair funding scheme for 2006/07 to reflect government priorities at Key Stage 3.

Finance

9. The funding of schools is prescribed by the DfES through the Financing of Maintained Schools Regulations (England) 2004 and the LEA budget, Schools Budget and Individual Schools Budget (England) Regulations 2004. From 2006 it will be amended to the School Finance (England) Regulations 2005.
10. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget will be funded by a direct DfES grant: Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

Law


11. 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.

Equal Opportunities

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

Recommendation

13. That Schools Forum note the contents of this report, and advise the Director of Children's Services in respect of the distribution of personalised learning funding for 2006/07.



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