

Schools Forum 19 March 2013

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Review of 2013-14 School Funding Arrangements

Purpose of Report

1. To update Schools Forum members in respect of the DfE's consultation document "Review of 2013-14 School Funding Arrangements" published on 12 February 2013 and agree a response on behalf of Schools Forum.

Discussed at HTCF – BWG

2. Yes –13 March 2013.

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 content of the DfE publication issued on 12 February and agree a consultation response on behalf of Schools Forum which must be submitted by 26 March 2013.

Attachments to Report

6. Appendix A – DfE consultation publication "Review of 2013-14 Funding Arrangements."
7. Appendix B – extract from Appendix A showing the relevant data for Dudley.
8. Appendix C - Consultation response form.

Sue Coates
Senior Principal Accountant
4 March 2013

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Background

2. On 12 February 2013, the DfE published the Review of 2013–14 School Funding Arrangements document. This document gives a summary of how the 2013-14 reforms have been implemented and considers some specific issues that have been raised. It seeks views from a range of interested parties including Local Authorities, Headteachers, Principals and Governors.
3. The review will also consider whether small changes in 2014-15 are required in order to address some of the issues raised
4. The consultation considers four main areas:
 - A move towards national consistency;
 - Areas of concern and possible changes for 2014-15;
 - Options for adjusting High Needs funding for 2014-15 and beyond; and
 - Schools Forums.
5. A copy of this document is attached at Appendix A for information.
6. The consultation documentation is available at:
<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/financialmanagement/schoolsrevenuefunding/a00221523/review-of-2013-14-school-funding-arrangements>
7. An extract from this document containing benchmarking charts which reflect the relevant data for Dudley is attached at Appendix B for information.
8. Proposed responses to the consultation will be discussed with Headteachers Consultative Forum- Budget Working Group (HTCF-BWG) on 13 March and an updated version of the draft response attached at Appendix C will be provided at the meeting.

9. The final response form must be submitted to the DfE by 26 March 2013.
10. The DfE have confirmed that the outcomes of this consultation will be published in June 2013 and have already arranged attendance at a regional meeting on 19 June 2013 to discuss the outcomes and possible changes for 2014/15. This will be reported to the July Schools Forum meeting.

Finance

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

Law

14. 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

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

Recommendation

16. Schools Forum to:

- Note the content of the Review of 2013-14 School Funding Arrangements document; and
- Advise the Director of Children's Services regarding the proposed consultation response on behalf of Schools Forum.



Jane Porter
Director of Children's Services

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