

## **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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> November 2014; a summary of the responses will be presented to HTCF-BWG on 21<sup>st</sup> November for recommendations which will be taken to the Schools Forum meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:sue.coates@dudley.gov.uk) or telephone 01384 814217.