

Dudley Schools Forum - 27th January 2015

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2014

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update Schools Forum on the latest amendments to the School Finance Regulations as advised by Central Government.

Budget Working Group Discussed

2. Yes – 21st January 2015.

Schools Forum Role and Responsibilities

3. To be aware of the regulatory framework, which governs the financing of schools.

Action for Schools Forum

4. To note the amendments to the School Finance Regulations 2014 to be effective from 12th January 2015 in respect of the 2015/16 financial year.

Attachments

5. Appendix A– An explanatory memorandum to the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2014.

Sue Coates
Senior Principal Accountant
12th January 2015

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Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2014

1. The purpose of this report is to update Schools Forum on the latest amendments to the School Finance Regulations as advised by Central Government.

Background

2. The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2014 were laid before Parliament on 22nd December 2014 and come into force on 12th January 2015.
3. These apply to the financial year 2015/16 and revoke the School Finance (England) Regulations 2013 on 1 April 2015. As previously, they define the non-schools education budget, the schools budget, the central expenditure and the individual schools budget and require local authorities to determine budget shares for schools maintained by them in accordance with the appropriate formula. They also prescribe the method for allocation of funding in respect of nursery classes in schools and relevant early years providers and impose requirements in relation to local authorities' Financial Schemes.
4. An explanatory memorandum which details the changes is attached at Appendix A for information.
5. A copy of the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2014 is available at :
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2014/3352/pdfs/ukxi_20143352_en.pdf
6. In particular, Forum should note the following :
 - The requirement for local authorities to determine the amount of individual school's budget share by 27th February 2015, except in relation to sixth form funding, special schools, pupil referral units and nursery provision which must be determined by 31st March 2015 remains unchanged.
 - The value for Alternative Provision funding will increase from £8,000 to £10,000 per place from 1st September 2015.
 - Local Authorities are required to pay the Early Years Pupil Premium to providers in respect of eligible 3 and 4 year olds from 1st April 2015.
 - The regulations amend the Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012 in relation to membership, and the requirement for discussion of arrangements for Special Educational Needs and Alternative Provision places commissioned by the Local Authority and the arrangements for paying top-up funding.

Finance

7. The funding of schools is prescribed by the Department for Education (DfE) through the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2014.
8. Schools Forums are regulated by the regulated by the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012 as amended by the 2013 and 2014 School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations.
9. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct grant; Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

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.

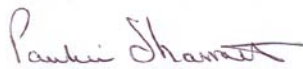
Equality Impact

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

Recommendation

12. Schools Forum to:

- note the issue of the School Finance Regulations 2014;
- note that the local authority has put in place actions as required of the amended Regulations, as summarised in Appendix A to this report.



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Interim Director of Children's Services

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