

Schools Forum 10 July 2007

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Final Allocations of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2007/08 Financial Year

Purpose of Report

1. To advise Schools Forum of the DfES's correspondence to local authorities dated 7 June 2007 regarding the final allocation of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the 2007/08 financial year.

Budget Working Group Discussed

2. No.

Action for Schools Forum

3. To note the 2007/08 financial year final DSG allocation.

Attachments to Report

4. None.

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1. To advise Schools Forum of the DfES's correspondence to local authorities dated 7 June 2007 regarding the final allocation of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the 2007/08 financial year.

Background

2. The DSG funds the Schools Budget. The Schools Budget is a combination of centrally retained budgets together with the ISB (Individual Schools Budget).
3. The DfES has now confirmed the 2007/08 DSG allocation for Dudley at £183.146m. This compares with an estimate of £183.160m, which leaves a DSG shortfall of just £14,000. This represents a 99.9% accuracy rate for the pupil data Dudley submitted to the DfES in March 2007.
4. Schools Forum, at the meeting in March 2007, agreed to earmark a sum of £100k from the 2007/08 DSG to cover the anticipated overspending in 2006/07. As this was not actually required at the 2006/07 year end, Schools Forum agreed at the May meeting to retain the £100k within the schools specific contingency awaiting a decision on its future use. It is proposed that the £14k DSG shortfall identified in paragraph 3 will be offset against the £100k contingency leaving an unallocated balance of £86k.

Finance

5. The funding of schools is prescribed by the DfES through the School Finance (England) Regulations 2007
6. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget is funded by a direct DfES grant: Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

Law

7. 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

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

Recommendation

9. Schools Forum to note that the £14,000 shortfall of DSG for 2007/08 will be offset against the £100k contingency set aside for 2007/08, leaving the contingency budget at £86,000.



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Director of Children's Services

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