

Schools Forum 8 July 2008

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Final Allocations of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2008/09 Financial Year

Purpose of Report

1. To advise Schools Forum of the DCSF correspondence to local authorities dated 19 June 2008 regarding the final allocation of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the 2008/09 financial year.

Budget Working Group Discussed

2. No.

Action for Schools Forum

3. To note the 2008/09 financial year final DSG allocation.

Attachments to Report

4. Appendix A – DSG Final Allocations 2008/09.

Karen Cocker
Children's Services Finance Manager
23 June 2008

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Purpose of Report

1. To advise Schools Forum of the DCSF correspondence to local authorities dated 19 June 2008 regarding the final allocation of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the 2008/09 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 DCSF has now confirmed the 2008/09 DSG allocation for Dudley at £188.303m. This compares with an estimate of £188.356m, which leaves a DSG shortfall of just £0.053m. This represents a 99.9% accuracy rate for the pupil data Dudley submitted to the DCSF in March 2008.
4. It is proposed that the £53k DSG shortfall identified in paragraph 3 will be offset against the £86k contingency set aside for this purpose, leaving an unallocated contingency balance of £33k.
5. Details attached at Appendix A highlight both regional and individual local authority data in respect of the 2008/09 DSG settlement. Forum may like to note that for Dudley the cash increase year on year in DSG is 2.8%, this compares with an average cash increase of 3.4% for the West Midlands with Dudley being the lowest in this group.

Finance

6. The funding of schools is prescribed by the DCSF through the School Finance (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2008.
7. Schools Forums are regulated by the School Forums Regulations 2002 as already amended by the Schools Forums (Amendment) Regulations 2004 the Schools Forums (Amendment) 2005 Regulations and the Schools Forums (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.
8. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget is funded by a direct DCSF grant: Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

Law

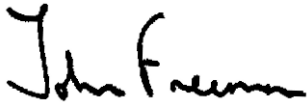
9. Councils' LMS Schemes are made under Section 48 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The Education Acts 1996 and 2002 also have provisions relating to school funding.

Equality Impact

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

Recommendation

11. Schools Forum to note that the final DSG allocation of £188.303m, which results in a £53,000 shortfall in the DSG for 2008/09 will be offset against the £86k contingency set aside for 2008/09, leaving the contingency budget at £33,000.



John Freeman

Director of Children's Services

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