

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Dudley Schools Forum – 13 July 2005

Report of the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning

Special Education Needs (SEN) – Funding Matrix for Mainstream Pupils

Purpose of Report

1. To present to the Schools Forum a draft copy of the proposed LEA consultation paper to be issued in the Autumn 2005, in respect of the Special Education Needs (SEN) funding matrix for mainstream pupils.

Background

2. A working group, consisting of Local Education Authority (LEA) Officers, Head Teacher and Parent and Partnership representatives, have been working to review the current funding arrangements for mainstream pupils who have special educational needs.
3. It is proposed that the funding arrangements will be implemented from 1st April 2006. However, in order for this to take place the proposal must be fully consulted upon.
4. It is anticipated that the consultation period will cover September to November 2005. With a decision being made in December 2005.
5. A draft copy of the consultation document is now available (as appended) and will be circulated widely, where time permits, to a number of groups before the Summer term 2005 ends:
 - Primary and Secondary Forums;
 - Head Teachers Consultative Forum (HTCF) - Budget Working Group;
 - HTCF – Special Education Needs;
 - SEN officers;
 - School Development Advisors (SDAs).
6. The document will also be presented to SENCOs (special education needs co-ordinators), parental groups and governors formally during the Autumn term in line with the details set out in the consultation document.

Proposal

7. It is proposed that Schools Forum note the content of this report together with the draft consultation paper – SEN matrix funding for mainstream pupils.

Finance

8. There will be no additional financial implications arising from the proposal. The SEN matrix draws upon existing resources identified for SEN pupils.
9. The budget is cash limited; therefore an increase in eligible pupils will translate to a reduction in the unit of resource.

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. The Code of Practice SEN 2001.

Equal Opportunities

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

Recommendations

12. Schools Forum are invited to advise the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning in respect of the proposals set out in this report.



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