

Schools Forum

26th November 2019

Delegation / De-delegation 2020/21

Introduction

1. That the Schools Forum considers the issues in this paper and maintained schools members vote on de-delegation of services.

Summary

2. Funding for de-delegated services must be allocated through the formula but can be passed back, or de-delegated for mainstream primary and secondary schools with school forum approval.
3. The authority is proposing the option of de-delegation (i.e. central management) for all of the areas covered in this report for 2020/21.
4. An equivalent paper was presented and discussed at the last Forum on 8th October so members were aware of voting at today's meeting. Also in the event of any of the proposals being rejected this would allow time to plan for the transfer of budgets and responsibilities.

Detail

5. Under the government's funding reforms there is an assumption of delegation for a number of budget areas which are currently held centrally for maintained schools and are delegated for academies. Maintained schools' primary and secondary representatives on the Schools Forum can vote, by sector, to de-delegate these areas where it is proposed by the local authority. The outcome of the vote is binding for all maintained schools in that sector.
6. If the Schools Forum voted against the proposals for de-delegation then a range of costs and associated responsibilities currently met centrally by the local authority will transfer to maintained schools for them to manage themselves. The budget for these costs would also transfer to schools on a formula basis which was previously consulted on and agreed.
7. Academies are not part of these arrangements since these responsibilities and the funding for them are automatically delegated to academies through the ESFA using the local funding formula.
8. Responsibility for a number of services and associated funding that falls within the regulations has been delegated for several years and it is proposed that this continues

for those areas namely, insurances, museum and library services and staff supply costs (other than trade union duties).

9. The Schools Forum agreed to de-delegation last year for services in the section below for all primary and secondary maintained schools (i.e. excluding academies).

Budgets Proposed for continued de-delegation

10. A summary table of the services, their related estimated funding and the basis the funding which would be removed from the formula is shown in the table below.

Service	Primary £	Primary Basis	Secondary £	Secondary Basis	Total £
Contingencies	£15,297	£2.04 per child (NoR)	£3,500	£2.53 per child (NoR)	£18,797
Support to Schools Partnership Fund	£35,679	£4.77 per child (NoR)	£8,573	£6.19 per child (NoR)	£44,252
Staff costs supply cover – Union facilities time	£10,753	£1.44 per child (NoR)	£2,546	£1.84 per child (NoR)	£13,299
Behaviour and Support Services	£60,541	LowAtt_%_P RI_78	£25,446	LowAtt_%_SEC	£85,987
Free school meals eligibility	£16,828	£2.25 per child (NoR)	£3,985	£2.88 per child (NoR)	£20,813
TOTAL	£139,098		£44,050		£183,148*

*above takes account of schools known to be converting to academy status before 6th January 2020.

The number of maintained schools on which the above estimates are based is:-

Primary Schools - 24
Secondary Schools - 1

11. **Contingencies Formula Errors (1.1.1):** This budget relates to a contingency for correction of errors in the funding formula. If this budget wasn't in place then the schools budget would have to be asked to absorb these costs or corrections made in future years.
12. **Contingencies Partnership Fund (1.1.1) -** Relates to support to the Schools Partnership Fund. In line with the Stockton Borough Council School Improvement Framework, a fund is in place to support maintained schools experiencing challenging circumstances. Schools may be those in Ofsted categories or vulnerable to weak outcomes. In 2018/19 financial year support was provided to 8 schools. The cost of this support is in excess of the sum allocated. The Chief Adviser oversees the allocation of funding and scrutinises the impact of support.
13. **Staff costs supply cover (not sickness) (1.1.9):** This budget relates to trade union facility time. Under the Employment Acts Trade Union representatives have a statutory

right to reasonable paid time off from employment to carry out trade union duties and training. The following considerations should be taken into account:-

a. Maintained Schools:

- i. Facility time for senior teacher trade union representatives based in schools has always been funded by centrally retained DSG funding in the past, this report recommends this continues by approving de-delegation for maintained schools.
- ii. If this is not supported the budget will be delegated and schools will have to make their own arrangements for negotiating and consulting with the trade unions on changes to HR policies which will lead to duplication of effort and inconsistencies across schools.
- iii. Trade union representatives have a legal right to time off to participate in the collective bargaining arrangements of their employer and to represent their members. If the de-delegation were not agreed individual schools would have to bear the cost of the time off for the senior TU reps nominated by their union to participate in these discussions.

b. Academies (receive funding for TU facilitation in their budget) - options:-

- i. They contribute in the same way maintained schools do;
- ii. They are invoiced for TU time spent in their establishment by the trade union representatives, which has been paid for by the LA, and then reimburse the LA accordingly. They invoice the authority for time spent by TU reps, employed by the academy, spent in maintained schools; or
- iii. They make their own arrangements with the trade unions for representatives from the trade unions amongst their own workforce.

14. A written request is expected to be received from a collective for trade unions supporting de-delegation. If de-delegation is agreed for trade union facilitation arrangements then the LA would be willing to manage the pooled arrangements and contact academies to make them the offer to buy into the arrangements in support of good industrial relations across the borough.

15. **Behaviour and Support Services (1.1.2):** This budget relates to provision of advice, support and training to schools, on behaviour, social and emotional aspects of learning in order to avoid wherever possible exclusions and incidences of disruptive behaviour. Pupil Inclusion Panel has allocated an education adviser for advice, support and guidance, from April 2019. Since April 2019 there have been an increase in sessions allocated. There is a commitment to review this service with primary and secondary maintained school headteachers with a new service delivery model for implementation in 2020/21.

16. **Free school meals eligibility (1.1.4):** This budget relates to the administration of the free school meal eligibility scheme currently undertaken by Customer Services.

17. **National Copyright Licences:** The Secretary of State will continue to negotiate a number of licences on behalf of Local Authorities and "top-slice" LA DSG budgets to

cover the cost. The 2020/21 figure will be provided by DFE as part of the DSG budget in December 2019 (2019/20 £143k). The licences covered under this arrangement in 2019/20 will be:-

- i. Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA)
- ii. School Printed Music License (SPML)
- iii. Newspaper Licensing Agency (NLA)
- iv. Education Recording Agency (ERA)
- v. Public Video Screening Licence (PVSL), managed by Filmbank
- vi. Motion Picture Licensing Company (MPLC)
- vii. Performing Rights Society License (PRSL)
- viii. Phonographic Performance License (PPL)
- ix. Mechanical Copyright Protection Society License (MCPS)
- x. Christian Copyright Licensing International License (CCLI)

Recommendations

18. That the eligible Schools Forum members representing maintained schools vote separately according to their sector on the proposals to de-delegate services set out above.

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