

## National Fair Funding Group

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### Context

School Forum agreed to establish a task and finish group to review the formula used to allocated the dedicated schools grant for 2018/2019 and 2019/2020.

Under the current regulations the Local Area can continue to take local decisions on the allocation of the dedicated schools grant until 2020. School Forum proactively established a task and finish group to ensure decisions were made on an equitable and fair basis.

The task and finish group met on two occasions. Both meetings included representatives of primary, secondary (including grammar schools) and special school forum members. Members were mindful that they represented the education community as a whole and not individual schools.

### First Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017

The first meeting of the group defined the principles under which the funding should be allocated. The group concluded that the following principles should be adopted

- A three year approach using transitional steps towards the hard implementation of the National Funding Formula should be adopted.
- Forum should work to manage the impact on schools and adopt an approach that enables schools to make stepped changes.

This approach was ratified by the School Forum on the 30<sup>th</sup> November and the Local Authority was tasked to model different approaches for the second meeting.

### Second Meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018

The Local Authority had conducted the work to model a three year trajectory for schools towards the hard implementation of the National Fair Funding Formula. The figures at this meeting were also inclusive of the latest pupil numbers from the October 17 census.

The group considered a range of models for 2018/19 and 2019/20. The models ranged from the continuation of the existing formula to the full implementation of the National Funding Formula. Due to the increased funding being received it was evident that the Local Area could take a decision to move to the minimum funding rates published.

After careful consideration of all models, the task and finish group recommends the following formula is applied:-

### Primary Formula 2018/2019

- Pupils will attract a minimum amount of £3,300 per pupil.
- Age Weight Pupil Unit (AWPU) remains at 17/18 level of £2,806
- Lump sum increases from 17/18 level of £72k to £85k
- Unit values for IDACI to increase from 17/18 levels, but remain allocated using the 5 bandings A to E.
- Unit value for FSM reduce from 17/18 level by between 20 – 25%
- Unit values for attainment and EAL remain at 17/18 levels

- In this year it is not proposed to use the Ever 6 FSM numbers and the lowest IDACI banding F.
- To enable schools to receive a minimum per pupil level, scaling will be required to make the allocations affordable within the DSG schools block.

### **Secondary Formula 2018/2019**

- Pupils will attract a minimum amount of £4,600 per pupil
- Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) are set at the National Funding Formula levels of £3,863 for KS3 (£3,817 in 17/18) and £4,386 for KS4 (£4,001 in 17/18)
- Lump sum reduces from 17/18 level of £122k to £110k National Funding Formula level.
- Unit values for Attainment, IDACI and EAL will remain at 17/18 levels.
- Ever 6 FSM have not been used to allocate funding.

### **Primary Formula 2019/2020**

- Pupils will attract a minimum amount of £3,500 per pupil.
- Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) reduces to £2,776 from 18/19 level of £2,806
- Lump sum increases from 18/19 level of £85k to £98k
- Unit values for IDACI have increased from 18/19 levels and now include 6 bandings A to F.
- Unit values for Attainment and EAL have remained at 18/19 levels.
- Ever 6 FSM numbers have not been used to allocate funding.

### **Secondary Formula 2019/2020**

- Pupils will attract a minimum amount of £4,800 per pupil.
- Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) set at the National Funding Formula levels of £3,863 (KS3) and £4,386 (KS4).
- Lump sum remains at £110k National Funding Formula Level.
- Unit values for IDACI have increased from 18/19 levels and now include 6 bandings A to F.
- Unit values for Attainment and EAL have remained at 18/19 levels.
- Ever 6 FSM numbers have not been used to allocate funding.

The task and finish group have taken a balanced approach whilst working hard to achieve the minimum funding levels per pupil that were considered to be an important factor for forum members. The application of the model above enables **all schools to receive the published minimum amounts per pupil for each year**, this has been achieved through careful consideration of the drivers that have been attributed to each years formula and the scaling of factors in 2018/2019.

The model when applied at an individual school level enables **all schools** to receive additional funding per pupil and schools to have an allocation per year that is a positive trajectory towards the hard implementation in 2020/2021.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that School Forum adopt the model proposed by the task and finish group and the Local Authority is given the authority to inform the EFSA of the formula.

With forum agreement the Local Authority shares the formula immediately and provides indicative budgets in the week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

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