

School Forum 6th December 2012

As part of the changes to school funding for April 2013/14 there is further delegation to schools of a range of budgets that have in previous years been spent centrally on providing services to schools.

It is important to note that budgets and services are often inter dependant and removal of one can have a knock on effect to other budget lines and services. For example removal of support provided by members of the localities team such as targeted youth workers, family support or behaviour advice can lead to children facing greater problems that lead to a need for alternative provision. If alternative provision has to be made within either EOTAS or Special Education this will be a considerable cost which will fall within the DSG to provide. Therefore provision that is coordinated and provided by resources from the LA, schools delegated budgets and the High Needs block of the DSG may be the most appropriate approach both in terms of appropriate provision for individual pupils and overall value for money.

It is also worth highlighting that if buy back levels are partial this is likely to place the continued provision of the service in doubt

The table below outlines how centrally allocated budgets can now be treated.

(a) Has to be delegated; cannot be de-delegated but schools can buy into service where relevant

1. Threshold and performance pay
2. 14-16 practical learning options
3. Primary/special school meals
4. Extended services

(b) Has to be allocated through formula but can be de-delegated for maintained schools (approval is by the relevant phase members of the schools forum)

1. Contingencies (including previous amounts for schools in financial difficulties)
2. Free school meals eligibility
3. Insurance
4. Licenses /subscriptions
5. Staff costs – supply cover
6. Support for minority ethnic pupils

- and underachieving groups
- 7. Behaviour support services
- 8. Library and museum services

(c) Can be centrally retained before allocating formula with agreement of schools forum

1. Funding for significant pre-16 pupil growth (any underspend has to be added to the following year's formula allocations)
2. Equal pay back-pay
3. Places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils

(d) Can be centrally retained before allocating formula but no new commitments or increases in expenditure from 2012-13 (schools forum approval is required to confirm the amounts on each line)

1. Admissions
2. Servicing of schools forum
3. Carbon reduction commitment
4. Capital expenditure funded from revenue
5. Contribution to combined budgets (including expenditure shown under miscellaneous if appropriate)
6. Schools budget centrally funded termination of employment costs
7. Schools budget funded prudential borrowing costs

(e) Can be centrally retained by agreement of individual schools

Schools can buy into any service with funding from their delegated budget; the service would then be provided by the authority on a buyback basis. This could provide additional income on top of what is centrally retained in boxes (c) and (d) above

The amounts of overall budget and per school delegated sums are included in Appendix 1 for primary and secondary schools and Appendix 2 for special schools

Optional de-delegation for maintained schools

There are some services where the Schools Forum on behalf of maintained schools are able to decide that some funding should be taken out of their pre-16 formula budgets before they receive them and moved to central funding. These are:

- a. contingencies (including support for schools supporting schools networks, KS1 class size contingency and NNDR re evaluations);
- b. administration of free school meals (FSM) eligibility;
- c. insurance;
- d. licences/subscriptions;
- e. staff costs – supply cover (long-term sickness, maternity, trade union and public duties);
- f. support for minority ethnic pupils or underachieving groups;
- g. behaviour support services; and
- h. library and museum services.

For each of these, it is for the schools forum members in the relevant phase (primary or secondary) to decide whether that service should be retained centrally. The decision will apply to all maintained schools in that phase and will mean that the funding for these services was removed from the formula before school budgets were issued. There could be different decisions made for each phase. Academies would, of course, be free to buy back into local authority services, as is the case for maintained schools where funding remains delegated. There is an issue here that if only some schools buy back a service the delivery of the service may not be viable and will not be available to any schools.

Special schools will not in future have delegated budgets on the same basis as primary and secondary schools. They will get £10,000 per place pre-16, plus top-up funding for each pupil they have, from the commissioner to make up the rest of their budget. The principle of the new system for high needs pupils is to make costs comparable between schools so that they don't distort placements, so de-delegation is not consistent with this framework. Any existing central budgets can be transferred to the high needs block and

form part of the top-up. The schools concerned can of course contribute to pooled arrangements or buy back a service out of their budgets.

B 5. Staff costs – supply cover (long-term sickness, maternity, trade union and public duties).

The only budget funded from this area is the Teacher Unions Facilities funding which releases union representatives to negotiate with the Council to resolve disputes and produce draft school policies.

Please see attached Joint letter from the Teacher Unions and Joint Union submission

B 7. Behaviour support services

This funding will now form part of the current discussion with schools about a range of services and support that they may want to be organized for the 2013/14 financial year.

Progress on this and a necessary decision by Forum will come to a later meeting.

These budgets can be centrally retained before allocating funding through the formula with the agreement of Schools Forum

D 3 Capital Expenditure funded from Revenue £9,000

In 2012/13 there is a budget of £9k . This was used to contribute to the management and delivery of a range of capital initiatives across the whole Children Services (schools) capital Programme. This gives this section the capacity to apply for a range of additional funding such as additional basic need funding which has been just over £500k for each of the last two financial years. The proposal is to allocate the same level of funding for 2013/14

Recommendations for maintained primary, secondary and special schools

1. School Forum agree on behalf of maintained schools for the financial year 2013/14 that the following funding is managed centrally to provide services. Appendix 1 and 2 shows the levels of delegated funding and the data used for delegation across primary and secondary schools and special schools.
 - a. Trade Union Facilities time
 - b. Capital Expenditure contribution