



**SCHOOLS FORUM**  
**6 December 2016**

Report of the Strategic Director for Children  
and Young People

**ITEM**

**Dedicated Schools Grant 2017-2018 – Proposal for Items for Re Pooling**

**SUMMARY**

- 1.1 As part of the funding reforms to Schools Funding, the Department for Education (DfE) introduced the requirement that the funding that was centrally retained in 2012/13 that will fall within the Schools Block in 2013/14 should be delegated to all schools. There are three exceptions to this:

Exception 1 – Where maintained schools agree that a service should be provided centrally;

Exception 2 – Historic commitments;

Exception 3 – Statutory functions of the local authority.

- 1.2 For those services falling under exemption 1, these services and their funding will be delegated to schools in the first instance but, if **maintained** schools in a phase collectively agree, they can be provided centrally by returning funding to the local authority. The final delegated budget available to each school would then exclude these amounts.

There are, however, some City-wide initiatives where it only makes sense for the maintained to de-delegate if the academy phase pools its resources. Also, we currently have a model in some instances where academies are benefiting from the pooling of the maintained sector and this balance should be redressed.

- 1.3 This report makes recommendations to Schools Forum from the perspective of the Local Authority and the Strategic Director of People Services in the context of delivering Children's Services in Derby. It should also be noted that the funding from the Dedicated Schools Grant (detailed within this report) forms part of a total service funding stream alongside funding from the local authority resources.
- 1.4 Schools Forum is asked to consider the recommendations and the maintained representatives on the Forum will vote on the delegation levels to inform schools budgets for 2017-2018. If re-pooling was not successful, the Local Authority would consider operating alternative models, probably under a sold service model. Schools should be mindful that sold service models will only be provided

where there are no costs to the Local Authority. This makes the future sustainability of the service subject to take-up.

De-delegation only applies to mainstream primary and secondary schools. Academies, early years, special and pupil referral units will take an individual decision outside of Forum although it should be noted that the services contained in this report are reliant on a whole sector support in order that they are viable and sustainable.

Where funding is delegated to schools, this will be done on a per pupil basis. Schools need to recognise that the amounts eventually delegated through a per pupil model will not reflect the costs of that service to an individual school through a sold services model. Some schools may receive relatively smaller amounts through a delegation model yet may require higher levels of service provision; a reason why central services exist.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To consider a pooling of resources to continue to provide services based on the current model as detailed in the report under exemption 1 for a 1 year period.
- 2.2 To agree to the continued use of the Historic Commitments as detailed in paragraph 3.14.
- 2.3 To note the use and proposals for the Dedicated Schools Grant as detailed under exemption 3.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **3.1 Centrally Retained Schools Block**

#### **Changes in Delegation Requirements**

The Department for Education requires that the funding that was centrally retained in 2012/13, which will fall within the Schools Block in 2013/14, should be delegated to all schools. There are three exceptions to this.

Exception 1 – Where maintained schools agree that a service should be provided centrally. There is a limited range of services where central provision for maintained schools may be argued for on the grounds of economies of scale or pooled risk.

The following items are for re-pooling considerations under this exception.

- 3.2 **Support for Schools in Financial Difficulty: £150,000 (£6.01 approx. per**

**pupil, maintained only)**

This is a resource used to support schools budgets directly, particularly where schools are either in deficit or on the verge of deficit with standards issues and require additional contributions for one-off expenditure. The additional amounts are generally allocated to deal with restructure costs where the school may already be in deficit or the budget plans of the school indicate that a deficit would not be recoverable within the terms of a licensed deficit.

The Local Authority recommends that this amount is re-pooled so that a resource is available to continue to drive up standards in Derby schools where no other funding source is available. It must be stressed that school's own delegated budgets are always considered in the first instance.

It should be noted that this re-pooling is for maintained schools only and excludes early years, special schools and academy schools.

**3.3 Free School Meals Eligibility: to move to a fully traded model from 2017-18.**

Forum agreed last year to de-delegate for one year only to enable the service to move to a fully traded model from 2017-18. No de-delegation proposals are therefore required.

**3.4 Insurance: £250,000 (£10.01 approx. per pupil, maintained only)**

**3.5 Museum and Library Services: £34,634 (£1.39 approx. per pupil, maintained only)**

Derbyshire and Derby Schools Library Service (SLS) is managed by Derbyshire County Council and run under a joint arrangement with Derby City Council. It stocks a range of resources that support schools in their delivery of quality learning and teaching experiences. The resources, which include books, textiles, posters, framed pictures, artefact boxes and DVDs support the reading, learning and information needs of children and young people within schools. The per capita sum helps support the maintenance and development of the museum element of the collection. However, as a traded service, SLS also makes modest charges for an annual subscription and per item borrowed.

**3.6 Licenses and Subscriptions: £75,000 (£3.00 approx per pupil, maintained only)**

This funding is used to pay for licensing and subscriptions for schools not covered by the DfE managed licences. Payments include PPL, PPL music and CWCL.

**3.7 Central Staff Cover: £528,096 (£21.14 per pupil)  
Breakdown £18.33 approx. per pupil for Maternity cover; £2.81 approx. for Trade Union recharges**

This funding is pooled to reimburse schools the costs of maternity pay and trade union activity. Should this budget not be re-pooled then schools will have

to fund the costs of this through their delegated budgets.

The Trade Unions would like all schools to consider re-pooling resources and the Local Authority supports that proposal. It should be noted that under the current arrangements only maintained schools re-pool their resources so therefore are the only schools that can benefit from a charge to the central pool. Academies, special schools and pupil referral units could consider contributing to the central pool.

**3.8 Support for Inclusion**

It is permitted under the current Schools Funding Regulations to remove amounts from schools' delegated budgets to support inclusion including improving the performance of underperforming pupils from minority ethnic groups or to meet the specific needs of bilingual pupils. This allocation supports a wide range of activity and each item is considered separately.

**3.9 Primary Pupil Support Grant: £83,000 (£4.29 approx. primary only, maintained)**

Historically, grants existed to support the retention of pupils in school, both primary and secondary phases. These grants have since ended and at that time the secondary allocations were delegated. However, the primary phase continued to manage this through the creation of a central resource, funded from the DSG but managed by the Local Authority determining additional allocations to schools.

It is proposed that this is now used to provide financial support to the Primary In Year Fair Access process, as outlined in the Fair Access Agreement. This would ensure that central support is provided for all managed moves, both school to school and PRU to school, and that financial support is offered to schools on a case by case basis as outlined in the agreement.

The primary phase must consider whether it wishes to continue with this pooled arrangement. The local authority would recommend its continuation.

**3.10 Behaviour Support Services: £130,000 (£6.73 approx. per pupil, primary maintained only)**

This service supports behaviour in schools across the City. In the primary phase this service is delivered through the KS1 /2 PRU and supports children at risk of exclusion in mainstream schools. In addition this funding contributes to the support offered for Y6/7 transition for the most vulnerable.

The Local Authority values this work and would recommend its continuation on the current model. The secondary phase operates this service through a sold service model.

**3.11 £77,068 Secondary Hard to Place (£5.93 all secondary only)**

This is a sum of money used to support the placement of hard to place pupils

into schools. Funding of up to £4,000 per pupil is allocated and this will be agreed by the head teacher/designated representative of the receiving school, the SPP and the Specialist EWO who supports the In Year Fair Access process.

The Local Authority recommends the continuation of the pooling of this resource to support its inclusion strategy. For the strategy to be successful, all secondary schools, including academies, will need to re-pool resources so that all schools can benefit from the additional funding.

### **3.12 Support to Underperforming Ethnic Minority Groups and Bi Lingual Learners.**

This funding covers a wide range of service areas and is part of a total budget of circa £1.5 million funding, partly from the DSG and partly from Council resources. The service is an integrated service and managed as an Inclusion and Intervention service. To assist the delegation decisions, the activity of the service is detailed below.

#### **New Communities Support Team £330,000 (£9.70 approx per pupil)**

This funding supports the integration of new arrivals into the City who do not speak or understand English, providing home/school liaison, producing bi-lingual resources and sign posting families to appropriate mainstream providers.

The New Communities Achievement Team (NCAT) currently receives this funding from Schools Forum to provide the Primary & Secondary EAL New Arrivals Support Strategies. NCAT delivers one half a day support session each week for every primary and secondary school in Derby which participate in supporting the Primary Schools Support Strategy for EAL New Arrivals and Secondary Schools Support Strategy for EAL New Arrivals. The support is delivered in the form of language/curriculum in class support, admission/induction support, home/school liaison support, attendance monitoring and interpreting /translation service provision.

Primary Strategy delivers support to 13 primary schools and Secondary Strategy delivers support to 14 Secondary schools and academies. Additional support for schools and academies in Derby is provided through a number of supporting programmes which are designed to help children and their families with better access to universal services and better integration into the community. The support programmes include The Bridge project (education programme for EAL New Arrival children of primary school age waiting to be admitted to local primary schools/academies – 4 half days a week ) and One Stop Shop service (advice, guidance and signposting service for EAL New Arrival families in Derby – 5 days a week).

This funding includes staffing costs of 11 members of the team.

The demand from schools / academies across the city for support is increasing and the existing funding arrangements and capacity within the NCAT cannot meet these demands. In order to meet this demand NCAT delivers support through 9 support packages and these include initial support for the induction of new arrival EAL pupils, language / curriculum support, support in working with parents of EAL New Arrivals, training provision, mentoring, ESOL support and also support with interpreting and translation. This element of the service is provided through Traded Service.

### **Language Centre – Decommissioned**

#### **3.13 Exception 2 – Historic commitments**

The Local Authority is proposing that the retention of this is continued. There are two elements to the funding, which total £3m and are:

- Historic contributions to combined budgets £2.767 million. This funds approximately 50% the early help services in the City. Forum will be given a presentation on the plans for the service which will support the decision regarding the retention of the funding.
- Prudential Borrowing Costs £0.235 million. This funds the ongoing borrowing costs for 2 former major capital projects which have already been historically agreed by Forum and this will continue until the end of the loan terms.

#### **3.14 Exception 3 – Statutory functions of the Local Authority and Central Schools Expenditure**

There are some services that have traditionally been met through the budget for schools which relates to the statutory functions of the authority. It is proposed that the Local Authority will retain all items as detailed below:

- SEN Support Services £1.3 million
- Hospital Education £0.229 million
- School Admissions £0.285 million
- Servicing of School Forums £0.013 million
- Licences £0.102 - The DfE has agreed with the following agencies to purchase a single national licence, managed by the DfE, for all state-funded schools in England:

Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA)  
Music Publishers Association (MPA)  
Newspaper Licensing Authority (NLA)  
Education Recording Agency (ERA)  
Motion Picture Licensing Company (MPLC)  
Filmbank Distributors Ltd (for the PVSL)

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| <b>For more information contact:</b> | Alison Parkin 01332 642674 <a href="mailto:alison.parkin@derby.gov.uk">alison.parkin@derby.gov.uk</a> |
| <b>Background papers:</b>            |   |
| <b>List of appendices:</b>           |   |

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