

Report of the Director of Children and Families

Report to the Leeds Schools Forum

Date: 17 January 2018

Subject: De-delegation of funding for maintained schools - 2019/20

Report author: Louise Hornsey

Contact telephone number: 0113 3788689

Summary of main issues

1. Schools Block funding within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is delegated to schools each year by the local authority. Schools Forum can however agree that the local authority retains some of this funding for maintained primary and secondary schools, in order to provide certain central services for schools. This is known as 'de-delegation' of funding.
2. This report informs Schools Forum members of the outcome of the recent consultation with all maintained primary and secondary schools on the de-delegation of funding in 2019/20. The majority of schools that responded to the consultation were in favour of continuing to de-delegate funding for all of the nine services included in the consultation.
3. The local authority's recommendation is therefore that de-delegation continues in 2019/20 for these services. Primary and secondary members of Schools Forum are responsible for deciding whether this should be the case and will be asked to vote for each service.

1 Main issues

- 1.1 The Education and Skills Funding Agency requires that the local authority consults all maintained primary and secondary schools on whether to delegate funding to schools for the services detailed below or whether to opt to de-delegate this so that the funding is retained centrally. A copy of the consultation paper is attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The consultation was for maintained primary and secondary schools only as the regulations set by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) do not allow other settings, such as academies or SILCs, to de-delegate their funding in this way.
- 1.3 In total the 2019/20 consultation proposed de-delegated funding of £4,420k. This is a reduction of £143k compared to 2018/19 proposals which totalled £4,563k.
- 1.4 A summary is provided below of the proposals that were consulted on for each de-delegated budget for 2019/20 compared to 2018/19, along with the results of the consultation for each budget. Further information on each area that was consulted on is available in the attached consultation document (Appendix 1).
- 1.5 Responses were received from 22 primary schools and 5 secondary schools. This is similar to the response rate for 2018/19 (23 primary schools and 6 secondary schools). The majority of schools submitting a response wished to continue to de-delegate the funding for all services, across both primary and secondary phases, and it is therefore recommended that funding for all nine services listed below is retained centrally in 2019/20 in order for these services to continue to be provided. A table of the consultation results by primary and secondary phase is provided at Appendix 2, and a summary of the results and recommendations are provided below.

Contingency and support for schools in financial difficulty

- 1.6 The proposed amount per pupil for 2019/20 remains the same as the 2018/19 rate of £14.90. This would provide £954k of de-delegated funding in 2019/20, compared to £1,034k in 2018/19.
- 1.7 Of the 27 responses received to the consultation for this budget, 23 (85%) were in favour of it being de-delegated. We therefore recommend that funding for this service is de-delegated in 2019/20.

Maternity and other cover

- 1.8 The total budget proposed for 2019/20 is £1,894k, which is a £24k increase compared to 2018/19 when the amount was the £1,870k. This equates to a 10% increase in rates due to increases in demand and costs, and further details on the reasons for this are provided in the attached consultation document.
- 1.9 Of the 27 responses received to the consultation for this budget, 26 (96%) were in favour of it being de-delegated. We therefore recommend that funding for this service is de-delegated in 2019/20.

Suspended staff cover

- 1.10 The total budget proposed for 2019/20 is £40k, the same as for 2018/19. Due to a reduction in maintained school pupil numbers, the rate per pupil has increased from £0.36 to £0.52. Further details are available in the attached consultation document.
- 1.11 Of the 27 responses received to the consultation for this budget, 24 (89%) were in favour of it being de-delegated. We therefore recommend that funding for this service is de-delegated in 2019/20.

Trade Union facilities

- 1.12 The total budget proposed for 2019/20 is £359,000. This is a reduction in the total budget of £23,000 compared to the 2018/19 proposals, when the total de-delegated funding was £382,000. The amount per pupil has increased by 2% compared to 2018/19 proposals to reflect some additional costs due to the pay award.
- 1.13 Of the 27 responses received to the consultation for this budget, 25 (93%) were in favour of it being de-delegated. We therefore recommend that funding for this service is de-delegated in 2019/20.

School library service (primary schools only)

- 1.14 The total budget proposed for 2019/20 is £277k, which is reduction of £23,000 compared 2018/19 (£300,000). The proposed amounts per pupil show a 2% increase for 2018/19 to reflect additional costs due to the pay award. Further details are available in the attached consultation document.
- 1.15 Of the 22 responses received to the consultation for this budget, 19 (86%) were in favour of it being de-delegated. We therefore recommend that funding for this service is de-delegated in 2019/20.

Free school meals eligibility

- 1.16 The total budget proposed for 2019/20 is £168k. This is a decrease compared to 2018/19, when the total funding was £180,000. The individual rates have increased by 2% to reflect increases in costs due to the pay award. Further details of the amounts per pupil are provided in the attached consultation document.
- 1.17 Of the 27 responses received to the consultation for this budget, 26 (96%) were in favour of it being de-delegated. We therefore recommend that funding for this service is de-delegated in 2019/20.

Licences (primary schools only)

- 1.18 The total budget proposed for 2019/20 is £227k. This is a reduction of £18k compared to the total 2018/19 figure of £245k, and a 2% increase in per pupil rates.
- 1.19 The 2019/20 proposals take into account the estimated costs of SIMS licences based on previous years' increases. The actual costs will not be confirmed by the provider until

after a decision is required on de-delegation by Schools Forum? Check As mentioned in the consultation information, work has been carried out by Children and Families to review the cost of SIMS licences and ensure these are providing value for money. This has confirmed that the council contract offers cost savings compared to schools purchasing individual licences. An update on this work will be provided at the Schools Forum meeting.

- 1.20 Of the 22 responses received to the consultation for this budget, 21 (95%) were in favour of it being de-delegated. We therefore recommend that funding for this service is de-delegated in 2019/20.

Behaviour support services

- 1.21 The total budget proposed for 2018/19 is £108k, a reduction of £8k compared to the 2018/19 amount of £116k. The individual rates have increased by 2% to reflect additional costs due to the pay award. Further details are available in the attached consultation document.
- 1.22 Of the 27 responses received to the consultation for this budget, 24 (89%) were in favour of it being de-delegated. We therefore recommend that funding for this service is de-delegated in 2019/20.

Support to underperforming ethnic minority groups and bilingual learners

- 1.23 The total budget proposed for 2019/20 is £393k. This is a reduction of £3k from 2018/19 where the de-delegated funding proposal was £396k. The rates for 2019/20 remain the same as in the 2018/19 and 2017/18 proposals, and no increase has been made for the pay award.
- 1.24 Of the 27 responses received to the consultation for this budget, 24 (89%) were in favour of it being de-delegated. We therefore recommend that funding for this service is de-delegated in 2019/20.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Schools Forum members representing maintained primary and secondary schools only are requested to vote (by phase) on the de-delegation of funding for each of the services above in 2019/20. It is recommended that all nine services continue to be de-delegated.