



Schools Forum

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Training and Development
Centre

Paper

B

Public

De-Delegation 2014-15

Responsible Officer Gwyneth Evans

e-mail: gwyneth.evans@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 253875 Fax: 01743 254538

Summary

The 2013-14 school funding reforms reduced the number of centrally held budgets within the schools block and saw the increased delegation directly to maintained schools and academies of a number of previously centrally held budgets.

Maintained primary and secondary schools are able to choose to de-delegate some of these newly delegated budgets subject to a Schools Forum decision by the representatives of each sector. De-delegation is not an option for academies, special schools, nurseries or pupil referral units (PRUs).

This report asks Schools Forum to make a decision on de-delegation for 2014-15.

Recommendation

That Schools Forum representatives of maintained primary and secondary schools agree to de-delegate for 2014-15 in line with the table in Appendix A of this report.

REPORT

1. The service areas listed in Appendix A to this report were delegated in 2013-14 to all Shropshire maintained schools and academies but were able to be de-delegated from the primary and/or secondary maintained schools subject to a Schools Forum decision by the representatives of each sector. Current de-delegation decisions were for 2013-14 only.
2. This de-delegation provision is available in 2014-15 and decisions are required for each of these service areas again.
3. The figures in Appendix A detail the current 2013-14 budget for each of the service areas where de-delegation is an option and compares this with the estimated level of spend for the financial year. As the table shows, current monitoring of expected expenditure for the financial year is in line with budget in most cases.

4. A significant overspend is expected, however, against the 10% contingency for pupil growth budget in 2013-14. Twelve schools triggered additional funding from this budget in the current year, a 100% increase from 2012-13. Within these 12 schools there have been 3 applications for exceptionally high levels of funding. One large primary school's number on roll increased by 15% (41 pupils) part way through the financial year and received contingency funding of £65,680, a small primary school received contingency funding of £41,860 from a 62% (21 pupils) increase in number on roll and another relatively small primary school attracted contingency funding of £36,850 from a 27% (23 pupils) increase in number on roll.
5. These three contingency payments were exceptional and estimates of future numbers at schools in Shropshire do not suggest this is likely to be repeated. It is not therefore proposed to increase this budget in 2014-15 although should this exceptionally high level of expenditure be repeated consideration will need to be given to increasing the budget or increasing the percentage threshold over which schools trigger additional pupil growth contingency in future years.
6. Current monitoring of the maternity budget is suggesting a 9% underspend for the year at this stage. Any actual unspent de-delegated funding remaining at the year end will be reported to Schools Forum. Funding may be carried forward to the following funding period as with any other centrally retained budget.
7. The de-delegation of the funding for trade union duties (more commonly referred to as facilities time) attracted a lot of discussion and debate in Schools Forum during the autumn 2012. The sum de-delegated in 2013-14 is £64,860 (adjusted for academies).
8. The trade unions have produced a report for Schools Forum requesting the continued de-delegation of facility time funding in 2014-15. The report is attached to this paper (Appendix B).