



Schools Forum

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Training and Development
Centre

Paper

B

Public

De-delegation 2015-16

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Summary

In 2013-14 school funding reforms reduced the number of centrally held budgets within the Schools Block by increasing delegation to maintained schools and academies.

Maintained primary and secondary schools can 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 decisions on de-delegation for 2015-16.

Recommendation

That Schools Forum representatives of maintained primary and secondary schools agree to de-delegate for 2015-16 in line with the table in Appendix A of this report, including the adjustments to the level of budget held in 2015-16 in relation to the 10% contingency and maternity cover.

REPORT

1. The service areas listed in Appendix A to this report were delegated in 2014-15 to all Shropshire maintained schools and academies. Maintained primary and secondary schools are able to de-delegate these budget responsibilities subject to a Schools Forum decision by the representatives of each sector. Schools Forum must make de-delegation decisions on an annual basis. This report requires Schools Forum to make de-delegation decisions for 2015-16.
2. The figures in Appendix A detail the current 2014-15 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.

3. Schools Forum was made aware of an overspend on the 10% pupil growth contingency budget in last financial year, 2013-14. As it was difficult to predict at that stage whether this was the start of a trend it was agreed that the 10% contingency budget in 2014-15 would remain at the 2013-14 budgeted level but that should it overspend again in 2014-15 consideration would be given to increasing the budget or increasing the percentage threshold over which schools trigger additional pupil growth contingency for future years.
4. The table in Appendix A details the expected overspend on the 10% pupil growth contingency budget in the current year, 2014-15. This overspend is despite changes to the calculation of the contingency in the current financial year to take account of a school's minimum funding guarantee allocation and the additional expenditure incurred by the school as a direct result of the increased numbers. **It is recommended that the expected overspend on the 10% contingency de-delegated budget is funded by the expected underspend on the maternity de-delegated budget in 2014-15.**
5. For 2015-16, rather than increase the percentage threshold above 10% to reduce costs, this report **recommends increasing the 10% contingency budget in 2015-16 to the expected outturn level for 2014-15.** This would increase the de-delegated unit value from £5.06 per primary pupil in 2014-15 to an estimated £8.40 per primary pupil in 2015-16.
6. As the maternity budget underspent in 2013-14 and is expected to underspend in 2014-15 also, this report **recommends reducing the maternity budget in 2015-16 to the expected outturn level for 2014-15.**
7. As there is no appropriate basis for predicting the split of maternity expenditure between primary and secondary schools in future years, the unit value in 2015-16 will be calculated on the average per pupil cost across primary and secondary. This will result in the de-delegated unit values per primary pupil reducing from £13.61 in 2014-15 to an estimated £13.08 per primary pupil in 2015-16 and the de-delegated unit values per secondary pupil reducing from £22.63 in 2014-15 to an estimated £13.08 per secondary pupil in 2015-16.
8. Schools Forum has previously agreed not to de-delegate the administration of free school meal eligibility. This service is offered to schools on a traded basis by the local authority.
9. The insurance de-delegated budget covers fidelity insurance – covering loss of money, securities or other property resulting directly from one or more fraudulent or dishonest acts committed by an employee or as a result of computer fraud. Schools Forum has previously agreed to de-delegate this budget to allow for this insurance cover to be arranged centrally on behalf of all Shropshire maintained schools.
10. Schools Forum agreed to de-delegate the trade union duties (more commonly referred to as facilities time) budget in 2013-14 and 2014-15. Attached to this report is a letter from the professional associations requesting Schools Forum continue to agree the de-delegation of this budget. Also attached is a letter from

the Chair of National Employers' Organisation for School Teachers on Local Government Association headed paper.

11. Schools Forum has previously agreed not to de-delegate the public duties or the library and museum services strategic management budgets. Schools are therefore currently responsible for meeting these costs from within their individual delegated budgets.