



Schools Forum

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Training and Development
Centre

Paper

B

Public

De-delegation 2016-17

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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 and centrally retained services for 2016-17.

Recommendation

That Schools Forum representatives of maintained primary and secondary schools agree to de-delegate for 2016-17 in line with the table in Appendix A of this report.

REPORT

1. The service areas listed in Appendix A to this report are delegated 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 the 2016-17 financial year.
2. The figures in Appendix A detail the current 2015-16 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. It also details the provisional budget levels and proposed de-delegation basis for 2016-17.

3. Schools Forum has previously agreed the de-delegation of a contingencies budget to allow additional funding to be targeted at schools where their pupil number increases by at least 10% of their funded number on roll. Additional funding allocated from the contingency budget takes into account a school's minimum funding guarantee allocation and the additional expenditure incurred by the school as a direct result of the increased numbers.
4. Schools Forum has also previously agreed the de-delegation of the maternity budget. This centrally held budget funds the salary costs of any member of school staff on maternity leave, leaving the school budget liable for only the costs of the replacement employee.
5. 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.
6. Schools Forum agreed to de-delegate the trade union duties (more commonly referred to as facilities time) budget in previous years. Attached to this report at Appendix B is a letter from the professional associations requesting Schools Forum continue to agree the de-delegation of this budget.
7. 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.
8. 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.