



Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND

Date: January 2018

**Committee:
Schools Forum**

Date: Thursday, 18 January 2018

Time: 8.30 am

**Venue: Shrewsbury Training and Development Centre, Racecourse Crescent,
Monkmoor, Shrewsbury, SY2 5BP**

You are requested to attend the above meeting.
The Agenda is attached

Claire Porter
Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer)

Members of Schools Forum

Bill Dowell (Chair)
Phil Adams
Michael Barrett
Christine Hargest
John Hitchings
Sandra Holloway
Colin Hopkins
Pete Johnstone

Alan Parkhurst
Geoff Pettengell
Kay Redknap
Geoff Renwick
Mark Rogers
Philip Sell
Joy Tetsill
Ruth Thomas

Your Committee Officer is:

Philip Wilson Service Manager Business Support People

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AGENDA

- 1 **Apologies**
- 2 **Minutes and Matters Arising - Paper A** (Pages 1 - 4)
- 3 **Schools Revenue Funding Settlement and School Funding Arrangements 2018 - 2019 (Gwyneth Evans) - Paper B** (Pages 5 - 8)
- 4 **Early Years Funding Formula - Disadvantaged Supplement (Neville Ward) - Paper C** (Pages 9 - 12)
- 5 **Shropshire Schools Forum Constitution (Phil Wilson) - Paper D**
- 6 **Paper D - Shropshire School Forum Constitution - Appendix** (Pages 13 - 18)
- 7 **Dedicated Schools Grant Monitoring (Stephen Waters/Julian Dean) - Paper E**
- 8 **Funding SEN in Schools - Shropshire Local Offer (Julie Dean) - Paper F** (Pages 19 - 24)
- 9 **Communications**
- 10 **Future Meetings**

(please diary):

1 February 2018 (provisional)	8.30 am	STDC, Monkmoor
22 March 2018	8.30 am	STDC, Monkmoor
7 June 2018	8.30 am	STDC, Monkmoor

 Shropshire Council	Schools Forum Date: 18 January 2017 Time: 8.30 am Venue: STDC, Monkmoor, Shrewsbury	<u>Item/Paper</u> <div style="font-size: 48pt; text-align: center;">A</div> Public
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MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2017

Present

School Forum Members

Bill Dowell (Chair)
 Phil Adams – Academy Headteacher
 Michael Barratt – Academy Headteacher
 John Hitchings – SSGC
 Sabrina Hobbs – Academy Headteacher
 Sandra Holloway – Primary Governor
 Marilyn Hunt – Primary Headteacher
 Shelly Hurdley – Early Years Representative
 Pete Johnstone – Secondary Headteacher
 Alan Parkhurst – Primary Headteacher
 Geoff Pettengell – Academy Headteacher
 Michael Revell – Primary Governor
 Mark Rogers – Primary Headteacher
 Philip Sell – Hereford Diocese

Members

Cllr Nick Bardsley

Officers

Karen Bradshaw
 Gwyneth Evans
 Chris Mathews
 Jo Jones
 Neville Ward
 Stephen Waters
 Gareth Proffitt
 Phil Wilson
 Paul Jones
 Helen Woodbridge (Minutes)

		ACTION
1.	Apologies Apologies had been received from Clare Aspinall, Julia Dean, Jean Evanson, Colin Hopkins, Sam John and Guy Verling.	
2.	Minutes and Matters Arising (Paper A) The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes were accepted as a true record. 2. Phil Wilson highlighted the response around high needs funding which was circulated in Paper D (since deferred). 4. Phil Wilson confirmed that he had communicated the decisions taken at the last meeting to schools.	
3.	School Funding 2018-19 Arrangements Gwyneth Evans went through the paper. <u>Para 8</u> Mark Rogers reminded colleagues that the costs for schools on two sites is an extra	

burden to Shropshire schools which would have been avoided if the two schools had continued rather than merging.

Schools Forum members discussed the allocation of the sum of £33,300 which is received from the DfE to support split sites and unanimously agreed that this is the amount that should be passed on to the school.

Para 10/12

Regarding amalgamated schools, Schools Forum unanimously agreed the proposal to apply the 85% lump sum protection on the lower lump sum values of £59,500. Philip Sell highlighted the requirement for extra funding for the school and advised that some of the capital receipts from the sale of buildings may not be available for several years.

Schools Forum agreed the approach outlined in Point 11 if necessary.

Para 13-19

Regarding additional targeted high needs contingency funding - Schools Forum unanimously agreed this approach for a transition period of one year only. Schools Forum members requested some modelling of this with a view to reviewing for 2019-20.

GE

4. Consultation on Central Retention of Dedicated Schools Grant for April 2018

Gwyneth Evans went through the paper, which relates to maintained schools only.

Para 10 – Pupil Growth Contingency

John Hitchings pointed out that those schools that responded will almost certainly have voted according to their own circumstances.

Mark Rogers had concerns that the small response rate did not give a true picture. He suggested increasing the percentage to 15%.

Marilyn Hunt agreed and added that the additional information from the school detailing actual extra costs is also important.

Neville Ward suggested moving to an actual NOR increase but following discussion it was agreed that this would not work fairly.

Phil Wilson reminded members that academies do not get this funding and have to meet the costs of pupil growth from their budgets.

Primary Schools Forum members unanimously agreed to de-delegate the pupil growth contingency with an increased percentage of 15%.

Para 15 – Maternity Cover

Primary Schools Forum members agreed de-delegation.

Secondary Schools Forum member agreed de-delegation.

Para 20 – Fidelity Guarantee Insurance

Primary Schools Forum members agreed de-delegation.

Secondary Schools Forum member agreed de-delegation.

Para 25 – Trade Union Duties

Primary Schools Forum members agreed de-delegation

Secondary Schools Forum member agreed de-delegation

Para 29 – School Improvement

Michael Barratt spoke of the need to ensure that there is a School Improvement Service.

Primary Schools Forum members agreed de-delegation using the 50% fixed and

50% variable model.

Secondary Schools Forum member agreed de-delegation using the per capita model.

Para 38 – Redundancy Fund

Paul Jones advised that following some relatively quiet years, the last academic year had seen the most redundancies in recent times.

Primary Schools Forum members agreed de-delegation.

Secondary Schools Forum member agreed de-delegation.

Para 43 – Statutory School Finance

Primary Schools Forum members agreed de-delegation.

Secondary Schools Forum member agreed de-delegation.

Para 47 – Statutory Human Resources and Health & Safety

Primary Schools Forum members agreed de-delegation.

Secondary Schools Forum member agreed de-delegation.

Para 52 – Education Access Service

Primary Schools Forum members agreed de-delegation.

Secondary Schools Forum member agreed de-delegation.

Mark Rogers suggested that this area may need further consideration next year.

Para 55 – Multicultural Development Team

Schools Forum agreed that this should be taken back to schools for further consultation as there is doubt that the full picture is understood.

PW

5. High Needs Funding Benchmarking

This item was deferred.

6. Central Schools Services Block

Stephen Waters went through the paper.

Mark Rogers asked for more explanation and this was provided by Gwyneth Evans. Schools Forum were made aware that this funding would not become available to schools if it was not used in the way outlined. It is given to the LA on the basis of historical expenditure, baselined to 2013, and will reduce over time if the commitments end.

Pete Johnstone highlighted the small residual amount of funding provided to the Shropshire Schools Sport and Athletic Association.

Karen Bradshaw pointed out the benefits that schools/families/pupils get from this funding.

Michael Barratt asked if there is flexibility and it was confirmed that it cannot be changed and indeed will reduce over time.

Recommendation 1

Schools Forum unanimously agreed to continue to contribute £852,110 to combined budgets.

Recommendation 2

Schools Forum unanimously agreed to contribute £980,930 to part fund ongoing pension commitments for ex-Shropshire Council school staff.

Recommendation 3

Schools Forum unanimously agreed to continue to contribute £295,350 to fund ongoing revenue costs of prudential borrowing for the Monkmoor Campus Project.

Recommendation 4

Schools Forum unanimously agreed to the increased charge of £219,420 for the provision of a School Admissions Team.

Recommendation 5

Schools Forum unanimously agreed to the budget of £10,000 for the servicing of Schools Forum.

Recommendation 6

Schools Forum unanimously agreed to the increased charge of £206,150 for the annual copyright licensing fees

Recommendation 7

Schools Forum unanimously agreed to continue to contribute £570,000 to ongoing responsibilities that the local authority provides for maintained schools through the retained duties Education Services Grant.

7. Communications

Nick Bardsley advised that there will be a Cabinet meeting on 10 January 2018 to approve the funding formula for 2018-19.

Michael Barratt was concerned at the low rate of response to the consultation and wondered if schools did not appreciate the importance. He suggested a need to highlight this to headteachers. Phil Wilson undertook to include this in his advice note to schools which will detail the decisions taken at this meeting.

The chair suspected workload pressure on headteachers is the issue. However, Schools Forum can be pleased with attendance/engagement at the Lord Hill event and in other forums eg CPG/SSGC.

Mark Rogers reminded colleagues that the funding area is complicated and not easily understood - there was a 60% response to the formula consultation. He suggested that some issues eg redundancy might have been raised at the Lord Hill event.

The chair was keen that schools should know how well they are represented by their Schools Forum colleagues. He thanked Schools Forum members for the work they continue to undertake. Michael Revell thanked officers, on behalf of Schools Forum, for their work.

PW

The meeting closed at 10.50 am.

Future meetings (please diary):

18 January 2018	08.30	STDC, Monkmoor
1 February 2018 (provisional)	08.30	STDC, Monkmoor
22 March 2018	08.30	STDC, Monkmoor
7 June 2018	08.30	STDC, Monkmoor



Schools Forum

Date: 18 January 2018

Time: 8:30 am

Venue: Shrewsbury
Training and Development
Centre

Paper

B

Public

SCHOOLS REVENUE FUNDING SETTLEMENT AND SCHOOL FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS 2018-19

Responsible Officer Gwyneth Evans

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Summary

This report gives an update on the latest information available on the schools revenue funding settlement for 2018-19 and the dataset information provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) based on the schools' October 2017 census.

In addition the report details the school funding arrangements for 2018-19 and recommends that an underspend, after allocating the schools block element of the revenue funding settlement to all Shropshire mainstream maintained schools and academies in line with the national funding formula, is transferred to the high needs block, to support the pressure on meeting the needs of high needs pupils in Shropshire.

Recommendation

That Schools Forum:

- notes Shropshire's schools revenue settlement for 2018-19; and
- supports the transfer of any underspend against the 2018-19 schools block element of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), after allocating the schools block to all Shropshire mainstream maintained schools and academies in line with the national funding formula (NFF), to the high needs block, to support pressure on meeting the needs of Shropshire high needs pupils, up to a maximum of 0.5% of the schools block allocation.

REPORT

Schools Revenue Funding Settlement 2017-18

1. Detailed information on Shropshire's school revenue funding settlement for 2018-19 was announced by the Department for Education (DfE) on 19 December 2017.
2. As expected, the total 2018-19 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is allocated under four main blocks: a schools block, an early years block, a high needs block and a new central school services block (CSSB).
3. A summary of the 2018-19 DSG allocation, as announced on 19 December 2017, is shown in the table below alongside the 2017-18 DSG allocation (before recoupment for academies and deductions for direct funding of high needs places by the ESFA).

	2017-18 £m	2018-19 £m	Variation £m
Schools block	156.259	157.872	1.613
Provisional Early years block	13.528	15.001	1.473
Provisional High needs block	25.079	25.077	-0.002
Central school services block	0.000	3.160	3.160
Total	194.866	201.111	+6.244

2018-19 Schools Block key financial headlines

4. Shropshire's school pupil numbers at October 2017 are 35,446. This compares to 34,991 at October 2016 – an increase of 455 pupils.
5. Shropshire's 2018-19 schools block allocation is based on the NFF which provides for Shropshire a primary unit of funding of £4,046.86, and a secondary unit of funding of £4,882.99, along with funding for premises costs based on actual 2017-18 spend levels. The 2018-19 schools block includes funding to be delegated to Shropshire schools and academies through the local funding formula. Further to Schools Forum's recommendation, Shropshire's Cabinet approved the replication of the NFF through Shropshire's local funding formula in 2018-19 at their meeting on 10 January.
6. Funding included within the schools block allocation in 2017-18, for centrally held commitments such as historic schools staff redundancy commitments and commitments previously funded from the retained duties element of the Education Services Grant, is included within the new central school services block (CSSB) in 2018-19.

2018-19 Early Years Block key financial headlines

7. The 2018-19 early years block allocation is provisional at this stage as it is based on January 2017 Early Years census data. This provisional allocation will be updated in July 2018 and July 2019 and the final allocation will be based on 5/12ths of January 2018 pupil numbers and 7/12ths of January 2019 pupil numbers.
8. The provisional early years block allocation includes funding for the universal 15 hours free entitlement funding for 3 and 4 year olds, the additional 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds of working parents and the 2 year old free entitlement funding. In addition, the early years block includes funding for the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) and the Disability Access Fund.
9. For 3 and 4 year olds, the amount per part time equivalent (pte) pupil for the universal 15 hours free entitlement and the additional 15 hours free entitlement for pupils of working parents remains at £4.30 in 2018-19. The amount per pte 2 year olds from the most disadvantaged backgrounds remains at £5.20 in 2018-19.

2018-19 High Needs Block key financial headlines

10. The high needs block includes funding for local authority high needs pupils/students aged 0-24.
11. For 2018-19 Shropshire's high needs block is based on the new high needs national funding formula and also includes an imports/exports adjustment to reflect place funding of pupils educated in other local authority areas. Shropshire is a net exporter of high needs pupils and the imports/exports adjustment to Shropshire's high needs block is provisionally a loss of £0.816m.
12. Funding for pupils in special needs resource units at mainstream schools has been moved from the high needs block into the schools block in 2018-19 and funding for these pupils will be delivered through the school local funding formula from the schools block.

2018-19 Central School Services Block (CSSB) key financial headlines

13. The CSSB is a new block within the DSG including funding for local authorities to carry out central functions on behalf of pupils in maintained schools and academies. The CSSB is split into funding for historic commitments and funding for ongoing responsibilities and includes funding previously allocated to the local authority through the retained duties element of the Education Services Grant (ESG).

School Funding Arrangements 2018-19

14. The schools block element of the DSG for 2018-19 is based on a primary unit of funding and secondary unit of funding calculated by the Department for Education (DfE) from the individual school notional NFF allocations published in September 2017 using October 2016 total pupil numbers.

15. Allocating funding to schools in 2018-19 through the NFF using October 2017 pupil data will therefore not be an exact match to the schools block funding received by using the pre-calculated primary and secondary units of funding.
16. In Shropshire, after calculating individual school budgets for 2018-19 in line with the NFF, it is expected that there will remain an underspend against the schools block. The exact value of the underspend is not known at the time of writing this report as the DfE has discovered an error in the FSM data provided to local authorities for calculating individual school budgets and is in the process of determining a solution.
17. Any underspend could be allocated through the funding formula by increasing the factor values within the formula but this would move away from the NFF allocations and impact at an individual school level on the smooth transition into the hard NFF when implemented in 2020-21.
18. Although the schools block is ring-fenced in 2018-19, local authorities retain limited flexibility to transfer up to 0.5% of their schools block funding into another block, with the approval of Schools Forum. Given the current and on-going pressures on meeting the needs of high needs pupils from within the high needs block allocation, it is recommended that Schools Forum approve the transfer of any underspend against the schools block, after allocating funding to individual schools in line with the NFF (including floors and caps), to the high needs block up to the 0.5% maximum allowed of £0.789m.
19. This approach is being taken by several other local authorities as increased pressure on high needs funding is identified nationally.
20. It is not possible to predict whether the expected underspend against the 2018-19 schools block will occur again in 2019-20 and so any underspend should be viewed at this stage as a one-off in 2018-19.
21. Approval to transfer up to 0.5% from the schools block into the high needs block would be for 2018-19 only.



Schools Forum

Date: 16 January 2018

Time: 8.30am

Venue: Shrewsbury Training
and Development
Centre

Item

Public

Paper

C

EARLY YEARS FUNDING FORMULA – DISADVANTAGED SUPPLEMENT

Responsible Officer Neville Ward

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Summary

This paper is to inform Schools Forum of changes to the way in which the early years disadvantaged supplement is calculated and will be paid to early year providers from the start of the financial year 2018-19.

Recommendation

This paper is for information only.

REPORT

Background

1. Under the terms of the national early years funding formula (EYFF), local authorities are required to include a supplement to acknowledge those children who are deemed to be disadvantaged. Shropshire Council is intending to change the methodology for calculating the disadvantaged supplement in an attempt to target funding more appropriately to those children and families most in need, and to reflect that disadvantage can be a result of factors other than pure economic circumstances.
2. At present a total of £300,000 (2.6% of the overall early years budget) is set aside within the EYFF to fund the disadvantaged supplement. All of this is paid to providers through the supplement. It is intended to continue to allocate the same overall amount of funding to the supplement and to continue to pass all of this on to providers thereby not increasing the amount retained centrally.

3. There has been an additional disadvantaged supplement payment made to all providers in receipt of funding for the free early years entitlements since 2011. Providers have received a one-off payment at the end of the financial year. The amount each provider has received has been based on an historic analysis of the postcode details of the children in the setting on early years census day and then mapping those postcodes to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD).
4. It is acknowledged that it is no longer appropriate to use this data as a means of allocating funding to those children most in need of extra support. There is also some unease in continuing to use IMD as the measure of deprivation given that the school funding formulae uses the income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI) as the measure for allocating funding to schools.
5. The decision has been taken to change the means by which the deprivation supplement is calculated and paid, in an attempt to target the funding more effectively at those children who are most in need.

New Proposals

6. A one-off lump sum will continue to be paid to providers, with IDACI data used as the basis by which this payment is calculated in the future. This will replicate the manner in which funding is calculated and allocated within the school funding formula. Some 50% of the overall disadvantaged supplement - £150,000 – will be targeted to providers through this revised approach.
7. The data used will continue to be based on the numbers of children in the setting on early years census day. This will be mapped to the postcodes of these children through IDACI, giving each child a ranking between A to G based on their postcode. A financial value will then be attached to each ranking and a one-off payment made to providers based on the number of children in the setting in each of the rankings. The basis for these calculations, and the financial values used, will replicate those used in the school funding formula.
8. The remaining 50% of the overall fund will be allocated directly to support specific children and families identified as being in need.
9. The two means of identifying children and families who would benefit from some additional support, and who may be deemed to be disadvantaged, are based on circumstances rather than being focussed purely on economic circumstances.
10. This means that, firstly, families of children aged two, three or four are being supported who are being taken through the Early Help process and for whom the availability of some additional funded childcare, on a short-term basis, would be beneficial. Examples would include those families who are experiencing family bereavement, domestic violence or separation.

11. Secondly, the local authority is keen to ensure that those children with English as an additional language (EAL) are being provided with the appropriate support to enable them to access their early years entitlements and help ensure they are as 'school ready' as possible. Officers are working together with the Multicultural Development Team (MDT) to identify those children and agree the support required for the settings they attend. The intention is to passport funding to those providers to enable them to access the required support directly from MDT.

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Schools Forum

Date: 16 January 2018

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Venue: Shrewsbury Training
and Development
Centre

Item

Public

Paper

D

SHROPSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM CONSTITUTION

Responsible Officer Phil Wilson

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Summary

At their meeting on 7 November 2013, Schools Forum approved the constitutional arrangements for the annual re-apportionment of membership to take account of the changing mix between maintained and academy schools. This report details the required re-apportionment from April 2018 based on the academy conversions up to October 2017.

Recommendation

To approve the re-apportionment of Schools Forum membership from April 2018.

REPORT

Membership

1. All local authority School Forums are constituted in accordance with the Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012. Shropshire Schools Forum approved the current Constitution at their meeting on 13 September 2012, with the new Constitution becoming operational from 1 October 2012.
2. At their meeting on 7 November 2013, Schools Forum received a report on a document from the then Education Funding Agency (EFA) - now Education, Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA) - which referenced a requirement for regular reviews of Forum membership to take account of the pace of academy conversions and to ensure that membership remains proportionate (based on pupil numbers).

3. Following a report to School Forum on 2 February 2017, the following membership structure was approved to operate from 1 April 2017: 9 primary (5 headteachers, 4 governors), 3 secondary (2 headteachers, 1 governor), 7 academy (4 headteachers, 3 governors), 1 special school place and 1 pupil referral unit place (PRU). The special school and PRU places are not included in the apportionment calculation. The membership as at 1 January 2018 is attached.
4. In the November 2013 report Schools Forum agreed that a re-apportionment of membership should take place annually, from 1 April, using the pupil numbers from the previous October's school census.
5. In order to model the position from April 2018, the school census information from October 2017, and based on the number of academies as at 1 October 2017, has been used to assess the impact on representation. The table below summarises the revised representation (noting that 19 school places are apportioned by excluding special and PRU members).

	Oct. 2017 NOR*	Apportionment	
Maintained Primary Schools	15,798	43.2%	8
Maintained Secondary Schools	5,227	14.3%	3
Academies (as at 1 October 2017)	15,547	42.5%	8
	36,572	100.0%	19

** excluding pupils in special schools and PRUs*

6. The analysis indicates that from April 2018 there will need to be a reduction from 9 to 8 maintained primary representatives, and an increase from 7 to 8 academy representatives. The academy pupil numbers are split, 32% primary and 68% secondary, which breaks down as 3 primary academy representatives and 5 secondary academy representatives.
7. The additional academy place could be allocated to a primary phase academy representative based on this analysis. However, it is noted that the majority of academies are in mixed phase multi-academy trusts (MATs) and so the phase representation is not particularly relevant, though consideration might be given to drawing membership from MATs operating mainly in the primary phase.
8. The EFA guidelines stipulate that the academy representation can be drawn from free schools in the local authority area. Equally consideration will need to be given to the balance of headteacher and governor representation in each of the constituent groups. There are currently no academy governor representatives on Forum, though an officer from a MAT is now on Schools Forum. There are currently 2 vacancies for academy representatives.
9. The reduction from 9 to 8 members from primary maintained schools will need managing. Precedent would suggest that this membership should be made up of 4 headteachers and 4 governors. There are currently 2 vacancies for primary maintained school governor representatives. It is proposed that the governor vacancies are recruited for.

10. In respect of secondary maintained school representation, one of the headteacher members will become part of a MAT in the next financial year, and so there will be a vacancy. There is currently a vacancy for a governor from a secondary maintained school – in fact this position has not been filled for over a year. Representation from the secondary maintained phase which will become more of an issue as there will only be 3 maintained secondary schools later in the year following the latest round of academy conversion approvals.
11. While the local authority will support the constituent groups through the facilitation and management of, for example, election processes, the responsibility for determining how nominations will be sought, the mix between headteachers and governors, and the balance of representation between phases and/or size of school, must rest with the constituent groups.

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SCHOOLS FORUM – MEMBERSHIP – JANUARY 2018

Member Category	Name	School	Term to
Schools representation (21 members – 75%)			
Primary Headteachers (5 members)	Mark Rogers Alan Parkhurst John Eglin Guy Verling Marilyn Hunt	Oxon Crowmoor Morda Shawbury, St Mary's Kinnerley	31/03/20 31/08/19 31/03/20 31/12/21 31/03/21
Secondary Headteachers (2 members)	Pete Johnstone Alan Doust	Belvidere Bishop's Castle CC	31/03/17 31/12/21
Primary Governors (4 members)	Sandra Holloway Michael Revell Vacancy Vacancy	Meole Brace Buntingsdale	31/08/20 31/12/19
Secondary Governors (1 member)	Vacancy		
Special Schools (1 member)	Sabrina Hobbs	Severndale	31/03/20
Academies (7 members)	Phil Adams Geoff Pettengell Michael Barrett Geoff Renwick Samantha John Vacancy Vacancy	Corbet Shrewsbury AT Priory William Brookes Bishop Anthony ET	31/03/19 31/03/17 31/08/19 31/08/19 01/10/21
Pupil Referral Unit (1 member)	Vacancy	TMBSS	
Non-schools representation (8 members – 25%)			
SSGC Early Years & Childcare Diocese	John Hitchings Shelly Hurdley Colin Hopkins Philip Sell Vacancy	Little Explorers Lichfield Hereford Shrewsbury	
Association of Secretaries 14-19 Forum 16-19 Education Sector	Jean Evanson Bill Dowell Maggie Furmanek	NUT Derwen College	

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Schools Forum

Date: 16 January 2018

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Venue: Shrewsbury Training
and Development
Centre

Item

Public

Paper

F

FUNDING SEN IN SCHOOLS – SHROPSHIRE LOCAL OFFER

Responsible Officer Julia Dean

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Summary

The Children and Families Act 2014 requires all local authorities in England to develop and publish a Local Offer. This must set out in one place information about provision that is expected to be available across education, health and social care for children and young people in their area who have SEN or are disabled, including those who do not have Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

The Local Offer must describe the special educational provision it expects to be available both within and outside its area for children and young people in its area who have SEN and/or disabilities. This includes information about the arrangements the local authority has for funding education provision for children and young people with SEN.

This report details the information that Shropshire local authority will publish on its Local Offer to describe its arrangements for funding special educational provision for Shropshire children of compulsory school age.

Recommendation

This report is for information only.

REPORT

How SEN is Funded in Schools

1. Mainstream Schools (LA maintained schools and academies)

Funding for pupils' education is delivered using a place-plus approach. Place-plus means that schools receive funds based on their pupil numbers (place) and additional funds based on other factors such as deprivation and low prior attainment (plus).

There are three elements to funding for pupils with SEN:

Element 1 (<i>place</i>) AWPU Universal Funding	Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) This is funding received by all schools based on actual pupil numbers.
Element 2 (<i>plus</i>) Targeted Notional SEN Budget	This is funding received by all schools within their budget share*/GAG**. Schools are required to use up to £6,000 per pupil of their notional budget to meet the needs of children with SEN. This does not mean that they have to spend £6,000 on every pupil with SEN, but should identify the provision required as part of their graduated approach to meeting need.
Element 3 (<i>plus</i>) Targeted/Specialist Top-up funding from High Needs Block.	This is funding to meet the needs of individual pupils with SEN. This is in addition to Elements 1 and 2. The local authority is responsible for allocating this funding to schools. In Shropshire this may be allocated through the <i>Graduated Pathway</i> or through an EHCP. This is to meet the needs of children with complex or significant SEN whose needs cannot be met through elements 1 and 2 alone.

* applies to maintained schools

** General Annual Grant, applies to academies

Pupil Premium

Schools may be entitled to additional funding through the pupil premium where they have pupils who meet the criteria for this. This funding is intended to improve outcomes for those children who receive this funding and is not linked to SEN. Where a child is eligible for pupil premium and has SEN, schools should ensure that pupil premium is taken into consideration when planning support and provision to meet the child's special educational needs.

Top Up Levels Mainstream Schools and Academies (Element 3) Graduated Support Plan (GSP)

The graduated approach provides early support for those pupils that schools have identified as requiring SEN support. This means that children will receive an individualised learning plan that describes the provision that the school will put in place. Sometimes children require a higher level of targeted support that will cost more than the school can be reasonably expected to provide from element 1 and 2 funding (described above). Schools are able to request additional funding using the graduated pathway without the need for an EHCP. Where funding is agreed a Graduated Support Plan (GSP) will describe the education provision that is to be put in place and funding will be allocated to support the cost of any education provision that exceeds element 1 and element 2.

The level of funding required is determined by a multi-agency panel using evidence provided by the school and is allocated in increments of £500 per annum (paid monthly on a pro-rata basis).

EHCP

Funding to support the education provision described in the EHCP is allocated in increments of £1,000 per annum (paid monthly on a pro-rata basis). The level of funding allocated to meet individual need is determined by a multi-agency panel and decision making is based on the assessed need, outcomes and provision identified within the EHCP.

2. Funding in Maintained Special Schools, Specialist Academies and Pupil Referral Units (PRUs)

Place funding	All school receive £10,000 per commissioned place. This is paid from the High Needs Block of funding that is allocated to each local authority. Local authorities must determine the number of commissioned places that are required each year.
Top-up funding	This is funding that is allocated on a per pupil basis to meet individual needs of pupils. Top-up funding is allocated by a multi-agency resource panel using a banding criteria which takes into account a range of needs. Top-up values will vary across settings.

Residential Overnight Stays

Occasionally children may attend a local special school that offers a residential element. Overnight board and lodging will only be funded where this provision is written into an EHCP and where the assessment has identified that an overnight stay is necessary to meet an identified need.

It is expected that all educational provision will be provided at the school during the course of the normal school day.

Shropshire Council also commissions overnight stays as part of its Short Breaks offer. These aim to provide respite to parents/carers. A statutory needs assessment, carried out by a social worker, is necessary to determine whether a family is eligible for this type of support.

3. Independent Special Schools

Occasionally the local authority may place a child in an independent specialist setting that has been approved for this purpose by the Secretary of State or in a non-maintained special school. These types of school are specially organised to make special educational provision for children/young people with special educational needs. A list of these schools is published by the Department for Education (DfE). The local authority will name a school from either of these lists if local maintained specialist schools/specialist academies are not able to meet assessed need. In Shropshire decisions about whether an independent placement is required will be made by a placement panel.

Where the local authority names this type of special educational provision in an EHCP, this is funded through the High Needs Block. The cost of placing a child in an independent special school is determined by what the school charges. A schools charge may be regulated by the West Midland Regional Framework and the level of assessed need.

When the local authority makes decisions about funding high cost independent special school places, it has a duty to ensure best value for money. By that we mean that we need to strive to secure effective and efficient provision at the best price.

Residential schools

Sometimes it may be necessary for a child to attend a residential specialist school.

Education only residential placements will be limited to term-time only, i.e. 38 weeks. This will occur only where it has been determined through the EHC needs assessment that there is no local provision available to meet need. Where there is no assessed social care involvement and the placement is solely to meet the educational needs of the child/young person, the placement will be funded from the High Needs Block.

Where a child is placed in a 52 week residential setting, this will be deemed to be social care provision and both education and social care will contribute to the cost of such provision. Where there is an additional health need identified then tripartite funding will be required to fund the placement. The element to be funded by each agency will be determined through a funding panel.

4. Independent mainstream schools

Parents may choose to pay for their child to attend an independent mainstream school. The local authority is not under a duty to name that school in the EHCP. However, the local authority must have regard to the general principle that children should be educated in accordance with their parents' wishes, so long as this does not mean unreasonable public expenditure (Section 9 of the Education Act 1996).

In Shropshire this means that where the local authority has prepared an EHCP and has identified a state funded mainstream school or academy that can meet the child's assessed special educational needs, parents can choose to arrange for their child to be educated in an independent mainstream school. However, Shropshire Council will not fund the cost of the placement or any additional costs incurred by the school that arise from meeting the child's special educational needs.

5. Personal Budgets

A parent has a right to request a personal budget. This is an allocation of money that can be used to meet outcomes in the EHCP. A personal budget is suitable for purchasing specific support, which is not already commissioned by the local authority. A personal budget for education does not include funding for the cost of the school placement.

6. Elective Home Education

Under Section 7 of the Education Act 1996, parents have the right to educate children at home, including those with SEN. Home education must be suitable to the child's age, ability, aptitude and SEN. Where parents have chosen to home educate a child with an EHCP, and the local authority is satisfied that the arrangements made by the parents are suitable, the local authority will amend the EHCP to name the type of school that would be suitable and will state that parents have made their own arrangements under Section 7 of the Education Act 1996. The local authority has a duty to review the plan annually to ensure that the provision set out in it continues to be appropriate and that the child's special educational needs continue to be met. The local authority is not under a duty to make the special educational arrangements set out in the plan if it is satisfied that the arrangements made by the parents are suitable. This means that the cost of education provision will not be met by the local authority.

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