



## Schools Forum

Date: 9 June 2016

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Venue: Shrewsbury  
Training and Development  
Centre

Paper

**E**

Public

## Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS)

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### Summary

All local authorities are required to include within their Scheme for the Financing of Schools a requirement for all maintained schools to complete and submit a Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) assessment form to the local authority by 31 March each year.

The purpose of the SFVS assessment form is to assist schools in managing their finances and to provide assurance that they have secure financial management in place.

Each local authority's Chief Finance Officer is required to complete and return to the Department for Education (DfE), an assurance statement recording the number of schools that have and have not complied with this requirement.

This report details the position of Shropshire schools as recorded on the assurance statement as at 31 March 2016.

### Recommendation

This report is for information only.

## REPORT

1. The SFVS assessment form has been a requirement since September 2011. The purpose of the SFVS is to assist schools in managing their finances and to provide assurance that they have secure financial management in place.
2. Governing bodies have formal responsibility for the financial management of their schools so the SFVS is primarily aimed at governors.

3. The SFVS assessment form must be completed, signed by the chair of governors and submitted to the local authority by 31 March each year. It is for the school to determine at which time of year they wish to complete the form.
4. The 2015-16 SFVS assessment form is a series of 25 questions which the governing body must answer Yes, No or In Part to. It includes a comments section where governors can provide additional commentary to support their answer.
5. Each local authority's Chief Finance Officer is required to submit an annual assurance statement to the DfE detailing the numbers of maintained schools that have completed and returned their SFVS by 31 March each year and the number that have not.
6. The table below details the position at 31 March 2016, as reported by Shropshire's Chief Finance Officer within the assurance statement to the DfE at 31 May 2016.

Total number of eligible schools	128
Number of eligible schools completed SFVS and submitted to LA by 31 March 2016	55 (43%)
Number of eligible schools that did not complete the SFVS and submit to LA by 31 March 2016	73 (57%)
Number of schools granted exemption as issued with an Academy order	0

7. The number of schools completing the SFVS return and submitting it to the local authority by the required deadline reduced from 67% at March 2015 to 43% at March 2016. However, of the 73 (57%) of schools recorded as not completing the SFVS by the required deadline, 49 schools had returned an incomplete form by the 31 March 2016. Unfortunately these schools had used the 2014-15 version of the SFVS form rather than the 2015-16 version which included 2 additional questions relating to pay policies. The local authority's assurance statement has been annotated to explain this administrative error.
8. The SFVS assessment form template and supporting notes are available on the Shropshire Learning Gateway. The SFVS requirement is detailed in Shropshire's Scheme for the Financing of Schools. A reminder is included within the Information from the Corporate Director on autumn term governing body agendas as well as being included as an agenda item on the spring term governing body agenda. The annual notes supporting the budget information provided to Shropshire schools in January included a reminder of the SFVS requirements. In addition a reminder email was sent to all schools in March 2016 with a further reminder emailed to those still outstanding in April 2016.
9. There remain 16 eligible schools (13%) with outstanding SFVS returns for 2015-16 as at 27 May 2016.