



## Schools Forum

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Training and Development  
Centre

Paper

# B

Public

## De-delegation 2017-18

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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).

Any over or under spends on de-delegated budgets are carried forward to the following financial year.

This report asks Schools Forum to make decisions on de-delegation and centrally retained services for 2017-18.

### Recommendation

That Schools Forum representatives of maintained primary and secondary schools agree to de-delegate for 2017-18 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 2017-18 financial year.
2. The figures in Appendix A detail the current 2016-17 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 2017-18.

## **Contingency**

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. This de-delegated contingency budget for the current financial year, 2016-17, is estimated to overspend by £80,230. This is despite putting in place tight controls to limit allocations to actual additional costs incurred by a school where this is lower than the funding formula allocation. Contingency payments also reflect any minimum funding guarantee that a school has already received.
5. Appendix B to this report details the number and size of schools triggering contingency allocations in 2016-17 to date and reflects areas within Shropshire with pressure on school places, despite overall pupil numbers in Shropshire expected to continue to fall.
6. This report, and the figures detailed in Appendix A, recommends increasing the contingency budget from £159,770 in 2016-17 to £320,230 in 2017-18. The £320,230 budget allows for an increased annual budget of £240,000, reflecting the estimated annual expenditure in 2016-17, and covers the estimated overspend of £80,230 expected to be carried forward from 2016-17. Overall, per pupil de-delegation values for the contingency budget would increase from £8.65 per primary pupil in 2016-17 to £17.78 per primary pupil in 2017-18.
7. Alternatively, the percentage threshold at which schools trigger contingency funding could be increased from 10%. Based on 2016-17 contingency allocations an increase in the threshold to 17% would reduce the total payments made to date to £140,000. Clearly this would result in schools not triggering a 17% increase in pupil numbers absorbing additional costs from within their initial budget share.

## **Maternity**

8. 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.
9. The de-delegated maternity budget in 2016-17 was £321,570, £13.31 per primary and secondary pupil. Latest monitoring data suggests this budget is expected to overspend by the year end by £89,264. This report, and the figures detailed in Appendix A, recommends increasing the maternity budget from £321,570 in 2016-17 to £499,264 in 2017-18. The £499,264 budget allows for an increased annual budget of £410,000, reflecting the estimated annual expenditure in 2016-17, and covers the estimated overspend of £89,264

expected to be carried forward from 2016-17. Overall de-delegation values for the maternity budget would increase from £13.31 per primary and secondary pupil in 2016-17 to £20.93 per primary and secondary school pupil in 2017-18.

### **Insurance**

10. 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.
11. This report recommends maintained primary and secondary schools continue to de-delegate funding for insurance in 2017-18 at £0.86 per primary pupil and £1.30 per secondary pupil as in 2016-17.

### **Trade Union Duties**

12. 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 C is a letter from the professional associations requesting Schools Forum continue to agree the de-delegation of this budget. Also attached, at Appendix D, is a joint statement from NUT, NASUWT, ATL and NAHT, Shropshire making the case for continued de-delegation.
13. This report recommends maintained primary and secondary schools continue to de-delegate funding for trade union duties in 2017-18 at £1.82 per primary pupil and £2.95 per secondary pupil as in 2016-17.

### **Free School Meal Eligibility, Public Duties and Library and Museums Strategic Management**

14. 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.
15. 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.
16. This report recommends these arrangements continue.