

Extended Services Funding

Schools' Forum

Date: 15th October 2008

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Parish / Wards Affected: All

Purpose

- To inform Schools Forum of changes to the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) guidance concerning the funding of extended services in academies.

Recommendation

- Schools' Forum is requested to consider the options for incorporating the DCSF revised guidance in the funding methodology for extended services and to decide which model to adopt

1. Reasons

- 1.1 The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) published revised guidance to local authorities in late September 2008.
- 1.2 The revised guidance states that 'The DCSF would not now expect local authorities to include existing academies in their extended schools allocation'.
- 1.3 It goes on to state that 'Up to 2007-2008, Standards Fund grants have generally been payable to academies through local authorities, although some specific grants were already being paid direct to academies by DCSF. From 2008-09, DCSF will pay all specific grants direct to academies which are open before the start of the financial year'.

2. Detail

- 2.1 Currently the funding for Extended Services is allocated to clusters as a lump sum plus an additional allocation based on pupil numbers. Each cluster is allocated a lump sum of 60% of the total budget. The remaining 40% is allocated based on pupil numbers with a weighting for the Special Schools.
- 2.2 This method of funding means that funding is allocated to the Academy cluster using the same methodology for all schools across the cluster. This means that those schools which are part of the academy are funded both through direct funding from the DCSF and through extended services funding.

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- 2.3 The first option would be to continue the funding as now. This would still comply with the guidance as the funding is not specifically for a school but is for a cluster and it is a local decision how that funding is allocated between and within clusters. This would mean that the Academy has two sources of funding for its extended services delivery, its cluster funding based on all pupils within the cluster and its direct DCSF funding.
- 2.4 The other option would be to reduce the funding to the academy cluster. Funding would be recalculated based on revised pupil numbers, which would only include those children within the cluster who do not attend the academy. The lump sum would not be affected as this is paid to all clusters irrespective of pupil numbers. This option would mean that the funding methodology was consistent across all mainstream clusters.
- 2.5 The funding released would then be reallocated across all clusters, including the Academy cluster.

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications –

The DCSF has allocated a grant of £2,947,945 for the delivery of extended services from 2008 to 2011. Therefore the costs relating to this report will be funded through this grant at no additional cost to the Council.

There are no procurement implications.

Legal / Human Rights Implications – Extended services are at the heart of schools delivery of the Children Act 2004 outcomes for children.

Links to Corporate Plans and Policies (in particular to Swindon 2010 Promises) –

Children are at the heart of the Corporate Plan and the Children & Young People's Plan. The role of schools in the delivery of extended services is emphasised in Promise 45 "We will make sure that schools will be at the heart of each community delivering a range of services to meet the community's need".

Consultees

- The Director of Finance and the Director of Law and Democratic Services are consulted on all reports.

Background Papers and Appendices

None