



Schools Forum

AGENDA ITEM: 9

Title: Special Education Needs within Schools FSS

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1. Summary

This report summarises information included within the Schools Block Formula Spending Share (FSS) for the 2003/04 financial year in respect of Additional Educational Needs. Necessarily this report is technical relating to the distribution of some £25 bn of national funding to Local Education Authorities (LEAs). Therefore, definitive conclusions cannot necessarily be reached by consideration of this report, as local circumstances vary between Local Education Authorities in the way that matters are treated (eg the statementing process for special education needs (SEN)) and national descriptions do not always meet local descriptions. This report is for the information of members of the Forum and will also be shared with the members of the Heads and Governors Policy Advisory Board, which also meets on 8 July.

2. Recommendation

Members of the Forum are asked to note and comment on this report.

3. Resources Appraisal

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report, although of course this report itself deals with the allocation of very substantial sums of money.

4. Supporting Information

Background

There has been from 1 April 2003 the introduction of a new education funding system as between Central Government and Local Education Authorities. Previous Standard Spending Assessments are now Formula Spending Shares (FSS). This means that what was Education Standards Spending (ESS) is now Education Formula Spending. Education Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) is now Education Formula Spending Share (EFSS), comprising a

Schools Formula Spending Share and an LEA Formula Spending Share.

Nationally control totals across the six FSS blocks which make up the Education FSS are as follows:

	£m
Under 5's	2,601
Primary (5 – 10)	8,242
Secondary (11 – 15)	8,835
High Cost Pupils	2,305
LEA Central Functions	2,418
Youth & Community	513
TOTAL	24,914

The County Council share of these Formula Spending Shares in 2003/04 in respect of the Schools Block FSS is:

	£m
Under 5's	23.639
Primary (5 – 10)	78.045
Secondary (11 – 15)	85.414
High Cost Pupils	18.410
SUB TOTAL	205.508
Floor protection adjustment	0.949
TOTAL	206.457

The formula for distributing the under 5's, primary and secondary sub-blocks within the Schools FSS all have a similar structure:

- A basic entitlement (including a basic entitlement for Additional Educational Needs (AEN))
- A top up for significant deprivation or further additional education needs and
- For areas where it costs more to recruit and retain staff (area cost adjustment)

In terms of pupils the High Cost Pupil Sub-Block covers all pupils in maintained special schools, hospital schools and pupil referral units as well as all pupils for whom the County Council pays fees at non-maintained and independent special schools and all pupils in other maintained schools who have statements. The figure of 2,474 pupils is not based on the actual

number of pupils within Buckinghamshire, but on a national calculation based on income support of parents and low birth weight.

For Buckinghamshire in 2003/04

Under 5's

Based on 8,444 pupils

Basic Entitlement	£21.503m	- based on £2,546 per pupil
Additional Educational Needs	£ 0.098m	
Area Costs (+9.43%)	<u>£ 2.036m</u>	
	<u>£ 23.639m</u>	

Primary

Based on 34,249 pupils

Basic Entitlement	£68.657m	- based on £2,005 per pupil
Additional Educational Needs	£ 0.399m	
Sparsity	£ 2.263m	
Area Costs (+9.43%)	<u>£ 6.725m</u>	
	<u>£78.045m</u>	

Secondary

Based on 29,030 pupils

Basic Entitlement	£77.130m	- based on £2,657 per pupil
Additional Educational Needs	£ 0.923m	
Area Costs (+9.43%)	<u>£ 7.360m</u>	
	<u>£85.414m</u>	

High Cost Pupils

Based on 2,474 pupils

Basic Entitlement	£16.823m	- based on £6,800 per pupil
Area Costs (+9.43%)	<u>£ 1.587m</u>	
	<u>£18.410m</u>	

NB Sparsity only applies to Primary Block

Also, included within the basic entitlement of £2,546 per pupil for under 5's, £2,005 per pupil for primary and £2,657 per pupil for secondary is some £159 per pupil for AEN deemed to be in the basic entitlement.

Therefore, the funding which Buckinghamshire receives for AEN/SEN could be defined as follows:

	£m
71,723 pupils @ £159 (+ACA)	12.479
AEN in Sub Blocks (+ACA)	1.554
High Cost Pupils Sub Block (inc ACA)	<u>18.410</u>
	<u>32.443</u>

Therefore it can be argued some £32.443 m is identified within the Schools Block FSS for SEN/AEN purposes, out of £206.457m, or 15.7%.

County Council Budget 2003/04

Derived from the Section 52 financial statement for 2003/04 (Table 1) – excluding Standards Grant allocations, some £25.564m gross, and £23.940m net is allocated to special education – outside of the primary and secondary Individual Schools Budget (ISB).

Within the primary and secondary ISB the SEN element is identified as some £8.814m.

Therefore in total the County Council could be said to have some £32.443m identified within the School Block FSS for AEN/SEN and be funding direct provision of some £32.754m. These figures are not absolutes and are indicative only, having made a number of assumptions.

This report needs to be seen in the context of a wider debate on Special Education Needs arrangements which the Schools Forum has as part of its statutory role, in advance of budget setting arrangements for 2004/05.

Also there is a point to be considered in that whatever is included as AEN/SEN within any national funding allocation, the County Council should identify funding which it thinks is necessary and can be funded within the County for allocation to schools etc. Similarly within delegated powers of governing bodies they should spend what they consider appropriate within their own school, whilst meeting SEN statement commitments.

Please note all figures in this report are subject to rounding.