

**Title:** Contingency Panel - Schools in Financial Difficulties 2017-18

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**Schools affected:** All mainstream maintained schools

## 1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1. This report is for information and updates members of Schools Form on the outcome of the contingency panel meetings held in 2017-18.

## 2. Background

- 2.1. At its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017, Schools Forum agreed that £117,000 of 2016-17 dedelegated funding held on reserve be added to the contingency for schools in financial difficulties.
- 2.2. Schools Forum also agreed that an exceptional meeting was to be held to address any unresolved claims from 2016-17 as it was necessary to cancel the last meeting of the Contingency Panel due to lack of funds. This meeting was held in July 2017.
- 2.3. For 2017-18, Schools Forum agreed the new terms of reference for the Contingency Panel, including the move from 4 meetings a year to one a year, to be held the end of the financial year, (making the process fairer with all bids being considered at the same time). This meeting was held at the end February with all claims being paid to schools before the end of the financial year. The total fund made available through dedelegated budgets, from mainstream primary and secondary schools, was £452,178.

## 3. Outcomes of the Panel

- 3.1. The table below lists the anonymised applications from schools and the panel decisions. Only primary mainstream maintained schools submitted claims.
- 3.2. The Exceptional Meeting held in July 2017 allocated £89,283 of the £117,000 budget to 6 primary schools, although 9 schools submitted claims. Contingency funds awarded included unforeseen costs arising from long term absences and safeguarding issues. Unsuccessful applications included bids for SEN related provision that are not eligible under the panel's terms of reference. These SEN applications were referred to the SEN team for their consideration. The panel also used £5,016 to make up to the full agreed allocations made by the Panel in January 2017, to address the reduction in allocations

Report to Schools Forum - Contingency Panel - Schools in Financial Difficulties 2017-18 necessitated by the shortfall of funds at the time. The unused balance from this meeting of £22,701 was added to the 2017-18 contingency budgets.

3.3. The 2017-18 contingency meeting resulted in £278,603 being allocated to 19 primary schools. Successful bids included unforeseen staffing costs, additional costs arising from safeguarding issues, pupil premium for traveller children who arrived after the census date and cost associated with additional pupils up to a maximum of 7/12 AWPU. Unsuccessful applications included bids for SEN related provision that are not eligible under the panel's terms of reference. These SEN applications were referred to the SEN team for their consideration. The unused balance of £195,834 (after administration costs) has been added to the DSG reserve.

#### **4. Recommendation**

4.1. Schools Forum to note the report.

<b>Exceptional Meeting 7th July 2017</b>		
<b>Total Budget Available</b>	<b>£117,000</b>	
<b>Requested - listed by school</b>	<b>Applications</b>	<b>Agreed by Panel</b>
	£34,601	£0
	£32,774	£10,096
	£40,777	£40,777
	£26,000	£7,718
	£18,873	£5,692
	£27,000	£0
	£19,089	£0
	£14,000	£7,000
	£36,000	£18,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£249,115</b>	<b>£89,283</b>
<b>Fund pro rata reduction from January 2017</b>	-	<b>£5,016</b>
<b>Total allocated to schools</b>		<b>£94,299</b>
<b>Balance - budget not allocated</b>		<b>£22,701</b>
To allocate 2016-17 funds held on reserve _ agreed by Schools Forum 8th June 2017		

<b>Contingency Meeting 2017-18 - March 2018</b>		
Budget available form 2017-18 sch. Dedelegation	£452,178	
Unused balance from Exceptional Meeting	£22,701	
<b>Total Available</b>	<b>£474,879</b>	
<b>Requested - listed by school</b>	<b>Applications</b>	<b>Agreed by Panel</b>
	£16,159	£5,311
	£37,814	£26,580
	£5,830	£5,500
	£4,307	£4,620
	£26,362	£6,925
	£19,523	£9,762
	£68,492	£31,474
	£25,039	£1,484
	£23,082	£11,541
	£105,634	£34,662
	£36,331	£21,344
	£14,478	£7,239
	£47,597	£23,396
	£24,399	£13,052
	£20,465	£18,465
	£16,308	£16,308
	£14,400	£1,950
	£63,000	£27,550
	£31,522	£11,440
<b>Total</b>	<b>£600,742</b>	<b>£278,603</b>
<b>Administration costs</b>		£442
<b>Balance of funds at year end - transferred to reserves</b>		<b>£195,834</b>