



Report to the Schools Forum

Title:	De-delegation 2020-21 (Maintained schools)
Committee date:	15th October 2019
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1. Purpose of Agenda Item

1.1. The purpose of this agenda item is to set out the proposals for existing de-delegations and former ESG funded services de-delegations 2020-21 for consideration by Schools Forum. The latest DfE Operational Guide published in September 2019 makes no changes to the De-delegation definition or guidance. It is proposed that, as in previous years, a Maintained Schools sub-committee is established to consider the detailed proposals.

2. Background

2.1. Last year Schools Forum referred the de-delegation proposals to the Maintained Schools subcommittee and its recommendations were taken back to schools forum for a final decision. A paper setting out the services and the rates for 'Existing' delegation and services previously funded from the general funding rate of the ESG (for maintained schools only) was discussed at the subcommittee meeting. The Schools Forum constitution requires any final decision to be made at a formal Schools Forum meeting. Only maintained school representatives may vote on de-delegation proposals affecting their schools.

3. 'Existing' De-delegated services

3.1. 'Existing' de-delegated services are for maintained schools only; funding for de-delegated services must be allocated through the formula but can be passed back, or 'de-delegated', for maintained mainstream primary and secondary schools with

schools forum approval. This type of de-delegation does not apply to special schools, nursery schools, or PRUs.

3.2. Any decisions made to de-delegate in 2019 -20 related to that year only. New decisions will be required for any service to be de-delegated in 2020 -21. Schools Forum members for primary maintained schools, and secondary maintained schools, must decide separately for each phase whether the service should be provided centrally. They must decide on fixed contributions for these services so that funding can then be removed from the formula before school budgets are issued. There may be different decisions for each phase.

3.3. De-delegated has historically been agreed for:

- Contingencies (including schools in financial difficulties and deficits of closing schools)
- Staff costs supply cover (for example, long-term sickness and maternity, trade union and public duties).

4. Proposals for Existing Dedelegated services

4.1. The proposals for 2020-21 are to maintain the same de-delegated services and at the 2019-20 rates but to consider a reduced rate for 'Contingency – Schools in Financial Difficulties'. This is to keep funding within schools, but also to have a rate that will raise enough funds to pay-out contingency monies to schools at the same level as the last 2 years, so avoiding excess balances being held in reserves.

4.2. Proposals are that Primary maintained schools pay a rate of £12 per pupil (2019-20 rate £15 per pupil) and Secondary maintained schools pay a rate of £13.75 per pupil (2019-20 rate £17.50). Appendix A provides further details.

5. Former ESG funded Services

5.1. Local authorities can fund services previously funded from the general funding rate of the ESG (for maintained schools only) from maintained school budget shares, with the agreement of maintained school members of the schools forum.

5.2. The relevant maintained schools members of the schools forum (primary, secondary, special and pupil referral units (PRUs), should agree the amount the local authority will retain. A single rate should be set (per 5 to 16 year old pupil) for all mainstream maintained schools. Local authorities can choose to establish

differential rates for special schools and PRUs expressed per-place rather than per-pupil and this will 4 x per pupil funding.

6. Proposals for Former ESG funded Services

6.1. The proposals for 2020-21 are to maintain the same de-delegated services and at the 2019-20 rates of £3.50 per pupil in primary and secondary maintained schools and £14 per place in special schools and PRUs. Appendix B provides further details.

6.2. With regards to financial support, proposals for a service level agreement and expectations for the service will be discussed at this year's subcommittee meeting.

7. Pupil Numbers

7.1. The following data has been used:

Total pupil numbers = 41,600
(Primary Pupils: 36,200 and Secondary Pupils: 5,400)

Plus

Special schools / PRUs places =1166 (contribution rate is 4 x primary/secondary).

8. Recommendations

8.1. To continue with the arrangements agreed last year, that the details of any de-delegation proposals for 2020/21 be considered at a meeting of the maintained schools subcommittee with recommendations to be brought back to Schools Forum for final decisions.