



Report to Schools Forum

Date: 13th October 2020

Title: De-Delegation Proposals 2021-22

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Recommendations:

To continue with the arrangements agreed last year, that the details of any de-delegation proposals for 2021-22 be considered at a meeting of the maintained schools subcommittee with recommendations to be brought back to Schools Forum in December 2020 for final decision.

Reason for decision: to enable consideration of the de-delegation levels for 2021-22.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to set out the proposals for existing de-delegations and former ESG funded services de-delegations 2021-22 for consideration by Schools Forum. The latest DfE Operational Guide published in August 2020 makes no changes to the De-delegation definition or guidance.
- 1.2. 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 2020-21 related to that year only. New decisions will be required for any service to be de-delegated in 2021-22. 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 De-delegated services

- 4.1. Appendix A details the de-delegated services and rates for the current year and a number of options for possible rates in 2021-22. In the current year it was decided not to de-delegate funding for “Contingency – Deficits in Closing Schools” or “Staff Costs – Union Facilities”. It was agreed that this should be reviewed for 2021-22.
- 4.2. It was further decided to reduce the rate of de-delegation for “Contingency – Schools in Financial Difficulties” in 2020-21 to reduce the likelihood of surplus funds being held and to reduce the costs to schools. Two options are considered in Appendix A – to continue with the reduced rate or to return to the previous higher rate.
- 4.3. Based on the options presented Primary maintained schools would pay a rate ranging from £7.30 to £15 per pupil (2020-21 rate £7.30 per pupil) and Secondary maintained schools would pay a rate ranging from £9.05 to £17.50 per pupil (2020-21 rate £9.05).
- 4.4. Schools Forum is requested to delegate detailed discussion on these proposals to the Maintained Schools Sub-Committee for recommendations to be brought back in December.

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 2021-22 are to maintain the same de-delegated services and at the 2020-21 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. Schools Forum is requested to delegate detailed discussion on these proposals to the Maintained Schools Sub-Committee for recommendations to be brought back in December.

7. Pupil Numbers

- 7.1. The following data has been used for modelling purposes, based on the October 2019 census. The final number will be updated for the October 2020 census:

Total pupil numbers = 41,900

(Primary Pupils: 35,600 and Secondary Pupils: 6,300)

Plus

Special schools / PRUs places =1,200 (contribution rate is 4 x primary/secondary).