

SCHOOLS FORUM AGENDA ITEM

For Action

For Information



Brief Description of Item (including the purpose / reason for presenting this for consideration by the Forum)

To provide an update on a number of matters related to the 2017/18 Dedicated Schools Grant.

Date (s) of any Previous Discussion at the Forum

The Schools Forum made its recommendations on the 2017/18 DSG across meetings held on 11 and 18 January 2017. The Forum considered the Social Impact Bond on 20 July 2016.

Background / Context

See the details for consideration below.

Details of the Item for Consideration

Short Updates on Various DSG Items (for Information)

The Executive proposed to Council on 23 February 2017 the School Forum's recommendations on the allocation of the 2017/18 DSG, unamended. These recommendations were ratified by Council. Detailed budget information, and guidance, were published for maintained schools and early years providers on 24 February. Prior to this, an illustrative National Funding Formula impact statement, based on 2017/18 data, was published for schools on Bradford Schools Online and was discussed at the Business Manager Forums.

Members may wish to raise for the Forum's attention any significant feedback that they have received directly on the 2017/18 DSG recommendations and / or budget information that has now been published.

The Education Funding Agency (EFA) has approved our Schools Block Pro-forma submission for 2017/18 (the primary and secondary funding formula).

We currently await final confirmation on the 2017/18 DSG allocation (High Needs Block).

We currently await details from the EFA of 2 key DSG exercises a) re-baselining of the 3 DSG Blocks for our 2017/18 spending position (incorporating the transfer of funding from the Schools to the High Needs Block) and b) validation of the value of the Maintained Nursery School Supplement. Both these exercises are expected to begin later in March.

We currently await the DfE's operational guidance related to the technical management of the extended 30 hours free entitlement to nursery provision for eligible parents. The Local Authority may need to revise its administrative process for the delivery of the Early Years Single Funding Formula in the light of this final guidance. We will provide guidance for settings.

The Early Years Working Group met on 2 February, in particular to outline the development of our funding of SEN inclusion at the early years stage. This work is progressing and recommendations will be presented back to the Schools Forum at a future meeting.

The reconciliation of one off monies, following the 2016/17 year end closedown, will be presented to the Schools Forum in July.

A position statement on the High Needs Block, the delivery of additional (interim) high needs places and other strategic review matters, will be provided to the Schools Forum in May. The DfE announced on 4 March additional special provision capital fund allocations, to be used by local authorities to develop provision for pupils with EHCPs. Authorities will be required publish a concise plan to show how they intend to invest their funding. The national pot value is £215m over 3 years (from 2018/19). Bradford will receive a total of £657,967; £219,322 a year for 3 years. Additional High needs Block benchmarking data has also been recently published by the DfE, which will be further investigated.

At the BACs Strategic Group meeting, to be held 20 March, the Local Authority will present and discuss the Forum's recommendation for the reduction in the direct High Needs Block funding for placements in alternative provisions for pupils without EHCPs. An update will be provided to the Schools Forum in May.

Details of the Item for Consideration

Social Impact Bond

The Schools Forum received a presentation on 20 July 2016 regarding a Social Impact Bond, which would finance a new Positive Behaviour Service to help young people with learning disabilities and behaviours that were at high risk of residential education and / or care entry to achieve better outcomes by supporting these young people to remain at home. It was explained that this will also help control the increase of / reduce the Council's spending on these placements. The education element of the cost of the Bond would be financed from the High Needs Block, but with savings achieved also benefiting this Block.

The minutes of the 20 July 2016 meeting record that the Schools Forum, "...gives its support, in principle, to the Council's application to enter into a Social Impact Bond, where a proportion of the contribution to the successful outcomes payments for the proposed service will be met from the High Needs Block as indicatively set out in the PowerPoint presentation...that the School Forum's final agreement on the detail of the Social Impact Bond (and funding from the High Needs Block) is subject to consideration of the confirmed Social Impact Bond contract."

An update on the position of the Bond, including the details of the final contract (that will now be published for tender), is provided in the bullet points below. Understanding that the Local Authority is the commissioner of High Needs Block funded activity (the Schools Forum is a consultative body), the Schools Forum has given its in principle approval already, and that the details of the contract are as presented to the Forum on 20 July 2016, the Authority will progress the procurement process as set out below.

- Work is proceeding to put a Positive Behavioural Support service in place in Bradford, to work with children and young people with learning disabilities and behaviours that challenge in order to prevent the needs for full-time residential placements out of the authority. The service model is for delivery to 14 children / young people over 6 years.
- Application to the Big Lottery was successful, so they will be contributing to the outcomes payments if the service is successful.
- The split of outcomes payments between commissioners will be Social Care 60%, Education 10% (DSG), Health (CCGs) 16%, Big Lottery 14%.
- The contract will be with a service provider, who will receive investment to deliver the service from a social investor. If the service is successful outcomes payments will be made by the commissioners, which will be used to repay the investment made in the service.
- Outcomes payments will be made if children / young people remain out of full-time residential care.
- A procurement process will be undertaken to identify the provider and investor partnership, the procurement route will include dialogue with potential partnerships. This dialogue will include discussion of the detail of the outcomes payments model, the precise detail of the model may change but the overall contract value and the maximum funding available for outcomes payments will not change.
- The maximum contribution from the High Needs Block will be £175k over 6 years; this is if the programme is completely successful. The anticipated spend is £160k over 6 years, based on expectations of the success level of the service. This was the figure that was presented to the Schools Forum on 20 July 2016.
- Referral / entry criteria to the service are being developed with professionals from SEN services, social care, health and schools to ensure that places on the programme are taken by children / young people who would be highly likely to enter full-time residential provision without the programme intervention.

Fisher Family Trust (FFT)

The minutes of the 18 January 2017 Forum meeting record, "Fisher Family Trust: continue de-delegation from the primary phase at the cost of subscription. The representatives of maintained primary schools agreed for the Chair and Vice Chair to work with officers to agree the final subscription option for the primary phase. Agreed not to de-delegate for this purpose from the secondary phase."

Following further discussion with FFT, it was clarified that the cost of subscription for all primary schools and academies in 2017/18 would be £20,900. The cost for subscribing just for maintained primary schools would be higher at £31,600, because FFT will not give such a discounted price. So value for money has indicated that we subscribe on behalf of all primary schools and academies and then ask academies to buy into this. This is the approach we have now followed, in agreement with the Chair and Vice Chair. An exercise is currently taking place to ask primary academies whether they wish to buy into this collective subscription (if they do not they will not have access). A reconciliation of actual cost to the primary phase de-delegated fund will take place once the number of primary academies buying into the collective arrangements has been confirmed and this will be reported to the Forum at a future meeting.

For the Forum's awareness, an exercise took place in January / February to ask secondary schools and academies whether they wished to come together to enable collective purchase for this phase through the Authority.

Details of the Item for Consideration

Analysis of Primary Free School Meals Data

As part of the Forum's considerations in January, Members have asked for further analysis of how / why the level of deprivation as recorded by Free School Meals (FSM) in the October 2016 Census has reduced compared against October 2015 and previous years. Some outline analysis was provided to the Forum on 18 January. As a next step, the Forum asked specifically to see data that shows the extent of the difference in FSM% recorded for pupils in Year 6 vs. Reception.

This data is presented as part of an on-going conversation into the levels of deprivation that are recorded by FSM and the factors that are influencing this measure. The Council's Revenues and Benefits Department has informed that the number of applications across both primary and secondary phases remains fairly constant, but obviously this comes against the backdrop of a growing school population.

The table below shows the 'flat' FSM data recorded in the January 2017 Census vs. the January 2014 Census. It is a snapshot, which shows that the proportion of primary phase children being recorded as eligible for FSM has decreased overall over the last 3 years and that this decrease is greater in Reception and Key Stage 1.

FSM%	Jan 2017	Jan 2014	Diff
Reception	14.7%	21.7%	-7.0%
Key Stage 1	17.3%	23.0%	- 5.7%
Year 6	19.9%	22.2%	- 2.3%

Implications for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) (if any)

As set out in the report (this is an item for information)

Recommendations

The Schools Forum is asked to consider and to note the information provided in the report.

List of Supporting Appendices / Papers (where applicable)

None

Contact Officer (name, telephone number and email address)

Andrew Redding, Business Advisor (Schools)
01274 432678
andrew.redding@bradford.gov.uk