

SCHOOLS FORUM AGENDA ITEM

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

A drafted response to the DfE's call for evidence on SEND and Alternative Provision financial arrangements is presented for the Forum's consideration. This draft is intended to help Members agree their collective response, which will be submitted to the DfE alongside a response from the Local Authority. The deadline for responses to this call for evidence is 31 July 2019.

Date (s) of any Previous Discussion at the Forum

Information on the Call for Evidence (and sight of the questions asked) was presented on 22 May 2019.

Background / Context

The DfE launched on 3 May 2019 a 'call for evidence' on the financial arrangements associated with SEND and alternative provision. The DfE has indicated that responses will inform the DfE's discussions with the Treasury within the autumn spending settlement. Given the high priority that SEND and AP funding has, it is anticipated that Forum Members will wish to respond to this, alongside the Local Authority.

Details of the Item for Consideration

Please see Appendix 1, which is a response drafted by the Local Authority.

Members are asked to consider whether this response reflects the feedback Members would wish to give and, if it doesn't, to propose additions and amendments.

Members are also asked specifically to consider their responses to questions 17, 19, and 26 – 28. The draft currently does not have detailed responses to these questions. These are highlighted in red.

Members should identify that questions 7 and 11 – 15 have not been answered by the Authority in this draft as these are questions to be answered at school-level about how arrangements are communicated and how well schools understand them.

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

The DfE's response and action from the call for evidence is expected to inform the DSG High Needs Block allocation and National Funding Formula from April 2020.

Recommendations

The Schools Forum is asked to agree its collective response to the DfE's call for evidence, using the draft as a starting point.

List of Supporting Appendices / Papers (where applicable)

Appendix 1 – Drafted Call for Evidence response

Contact Officer (name, telephone number and email address)

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