



SCHOOLS FORUM

Proposed Transfer from Schools Block to High Needs Block 2010/21

30 September 2019

Content Applicable to;		School Phase;	
Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools	X	Pre School	X
Academies	X	Foundation Stage	X
PVI Settings		Primary	X
Special Schools / Academies	X	Secondary	X
Local Authority		Post 16	
		High Needs	X

Purpose of Report

Content Requires;		By;	
Noting	X	Maintained Primary School Members	X
Decision		Maintained Secondary School Members	X
Comment	X	Maintained Special School Members	X
		Academy Members	X
		All Schools Forum	X

1. This report sets out Leicestershire County Council's intention to consult on a transfer of funding of up to 0.5% from the Schools block to the High Needs Block for 2020/21.

Recommendations

2. That Schools Forum notes and comments on intention of the local authority to consult on a proposal to transfer up to 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block.
3. That Schools Forum note the intention to seek nominations from each of Leicestershire Primary Heads (LPH) and Leicestershire Secondary Schools (LSH) a Headteacher and School Business Manager to consider the detail of a proposed transfer.

4. That Schools Forum nominate a Schools Forum member to consider the detail of a proposed transfer.

Introduction

5. Schools Forum have been informed of the deficit on the High Needs Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and the High Needs Development Plan. This report presents a further proposal, a transfer from the Schools Block to High Needs of up to 0.5%, for 2020/21.
6. The Secretary of State announced on September 9th that there would be additional school and high needs funding for 2020/21. Analysis of the high needs announcement suggests that Leicestershire will receive C£5.48m as a result of this announcement. However this is insufficient to fully address the high needs deficit.
7. It isn't possible to assess the impact of the school funding announcement until detailed data at individual school level by the Department for Education (DfE) which is expected to be received in late September / early October.
8. The headlines of the settlement are;
 - Increased minimum per pupil funding levels of £3,750 in 2020/21 rising to £4,000 in 2021/22 for primary schools and £5,000 for secondary schools. For middle schools, all-through schools and other schools with a non-standard year group structure there will be individual calculations to produce a specific minimum per-pupil value that relates to the number of year groups in each phase. It will be mandatory for local authorities to use these amounts in their funding formula. How this will operate in practice is subject to the outcome of a Department for Education (DfE) consultation.
 - The value of most formula factors has been increased by 4%
 - The funding floor will be raised from 0.5% per pupil to 1.84% per pupil
 - Funding gains will not be capped
9. Whilst early modelling of the impact of the proposal has been completed it is not possible to assess with any certainty the impact of the additional funding, particularly the minimum funding per pupil rates.
10. Modelling will be completed on the data once received from the DfE to determine what capacity there will be within what is effectively a nationally revised National Funding Formula (NFF) to effect a transfer. This will determine the impact at individual school level and will form the basis of a proposed transfer.
11. Local authorities are able to:
 - Transfer up to 0.5% of the gross Schools Block to High Needs following consultation with schools and the approval of the Schools Forum. Should the Schools Forum not approve a transfer approval can be sought from the Secretary of State.

- Transfer more than 0.5% of the gross Schools Block with the approval of the Secretary of State

There are no restrictions on transfers between other blocks. Approval for a transfer is only for the year it is enacted, further approvals are required annually.

12. Local authorities would have normally expected to have the NFF dataset from the DfE in July. Given that this data is not expected until late September / early October the timescale for effecting this proposal is exceptionally tight.
13. Schools Forum will need to consider approval in November given that should the local authority need to seek Secretary of State approval if Schools Forum do not agree any proposal by 30 November. This will mean that modelling and consultation will need to be completed during October.
14. The draft consultation document which sets out the background to the proposals is provided to Schools Forum Members confidentially under separate cover.

Resource Implications

15. The resource implications cannot be determined until receipt of detailed NFF data from the DfE. The consultation will set out the financial implications for the local authority and for individual schools.

Equal Opportunity Issues

16. The purpose of the NFF is to ensure that all pupils with the same needs are funded at the same rate irrespective of the authority in which they are educated.
17. Local authority proposals will consider the impact at overall school level and identify whether any group of pupils funded within the NFF are disproportionately affected by any transfer.

Background Papers

Report to Schools Forum 10 June 2019 – High Needs Development Plan – New SEND Provision

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1018&MId=5858&Ver=4>

Report to Schools Forum 12 February 2019 – High Needs Development Plan – consulting on developing specialist provision

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1018&MId=5857&Ver=4>

Report to Schools Forum – 26 November 2018 – High Needs Block Recovery Plan

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1018&MId=5493&Ver=4>

Officers to Contact

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