



SCHOOLS FORUM

SEN Investment Fund and Schools Block Transfer

17 June 2024

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

Purpose of Report

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

1. This report is being brought to Schools Forum to set out the Local Authorities intention to create a SEN Investment Fund for targeted intervention at to reduce the growing prevalence of Social Emotional and Mental Health Needs in schools funded from an annual funding transfer from the Schools to the High Needs Block of the Dedicated School Grant.
2. The full detail of the proposals will be issued in advance of Schools Forum.

Recommendations

3. That Schools Forum note the proposed actions
4. That Schools Forum consider submitting a formal response to the consultation

Background

5. Schools Forum have received numerous reports over recent years on the growing financial deficit of the High Needs Block Dedicated Schools Grant. Updates have included:
 - The development of the High Needs Block Development Plan in 2017 which include the development of additional local specialist provision
 - Proposals for a transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block proposed for 2020/21
 - Proposals for a transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block proposed for 2022/23
 - The development and delivery of the Transforming Special Needs and Inclusion in Leicestershire (TSIL) programme
 - The implications of Leicestershire being within the DfE's Delivering Better Value in SEND (DBV) programme
 - The continued and increasing deficit funding position

6. In reviewing the impact of all of the above, the trends in pupil growth and rising costs the local authority is launching a consultation on a different approach. This approach is to:
 - Create a SEN Investment Fund ringfenced to deliver approaches and activities within schools to improve educational outcome for pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs (SEMH) within schools which will reduce the reliance on specialist provision.
 - The funding for the SEN Investment fund to be provided by a transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block on an annual basis.

7. The detail behind the proposal will be provided through the launch of a consultation immediately before the Schools Forum meeting on 17 September 2017 where Forum will be asked to comment on the proposal and submit a formal consultation response.

Resource Implications

7. All financial implications will be presented within the consultation.

Officers to Contact

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