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Schools Forum

Wednesday, 11th March, 2015
at 3.30 pm

PLEASE NOTE TIME OF MEETING

GREAT OAKS SCHOOL, VERMONT CLOSE, SOUTHAMPTON, S016 7LT

This meeting is open to the public

LEAD OFFICER

Dave Cuerden, Finance Manager

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FORUM ADMINISTRATOR

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AGENDA

Agendas and papers are now available via the City Council's website

1 APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Localism Act 2011, and the Council's Code of Conduct, Members to disclose any personal or pecuniary interests in any matter included on the agenda for this meeting.

NOTE: Members are reminded that, where applicable, they must complete the appropriate form recording details of any such interests and hand it to the Democratic Support Officer.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 1 - 10)

To approve the Minutes of the Meetings held on 14 January 2015 and 20 January 2015 and to deal with any matters arising, attached.

**4 ALLOCATION OF GROWTH FUND TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS 2016/17
(Pages 11 - 12)**

Decision paper of the Finance Manager requesting approval of a proposed method of allocation of resources held within the Primary Growth Fund, attached.

5 SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND UNIT PROVISION 2015/16 (Pages 13 - 16)

Briefing paper of the Finance Manager outlining the proposals for the funding for Special Schools, Units in Maintained Schools and Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) from April 2015, attached.

6 INTERVENTION FUND (Pages 17 - 18)

Briefing paper of the Interim Head of the 0-25 Service detailing information on the criteria governing the Intervention Fund, attached.

7 DE-DELEGATION (Pages 19 - 20)

Briefing paper of the Interim Head of the 0-25 Service seeking agreement to undertake further work on additional areas for de-delegation, attached.

8 PUPIL PREMIUM GRANT (Pages 21 - 24)

Briefing paper of the Interim Head of the 0-25 Service providing details on the Pupil Premium Grant for Children Looked After in 2014/15 and setting out proposals for its retention and use in 2015/16, attached.

9TH MARCH 2015

HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

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Agenda Item 3

To approve the Minutes of the Meetings held on 14 January 2015 and 20 January 2015 and to deal with any matters arising, attached.

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**SCHOOLS FORUM
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 14th JANUARY 2015
COMPASS SCHOOL**

Present:

Primary School

- Peter Howard - Headteacher, Fairisle Junior School
- John Draper - Headteacher, Swaythling Primary School
- Amanda Talbot-Jones - Headteacher, St Denys Primary School
- Julie Swanston - Headteacher, Woolston Infant School
- Mark Sheehan - Headteacher, Mansbridge Primary School

Secondary Schools

- Richard Harris (Chair) - Governor, Cantell Maths and Computing College
- Ruth Evans - Headteacher, Cantell Maths and Computing College

Special Schools

- Jacky Partridge - Substitute for Andy Evans, Headteacher, Great Oaks School

Academies

- David Turner - Governor, Townhill Infant School
- Lyn Bourne - Headteacher, St Anne's Convent

Pupil Referral Unit

- Alison Parsons - Headteacher, Compass School

Observers

- Sue Thompson - Early Years/Sure Start
- Beverley Pennekett - Education Funding Agency

Also in attendance:

- Councillor Jeffery - Cabinet Member for Education and Change
- Robert Hardy - SCC – People Directorate
- Donna Chapman - SCC – ICU Unit
- Dave Cuerden - SCC Finance
- Sharon Pearson - SCC – Democratic Services

1. **APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)**

Apologies were received from Anna Wright, Peter Sopowski, Alice Wrighton, Karen Waters and Councillor Dr Paffey.

It was noted that the following Members had resigned and replacements were in the process of being recruited:-

Graham Wilson – Headteacher, St George's Catholic VA College
Ewan Scott – Headteacher, Chamberlayne College for the Arts

Jeannie Gibbons – Headteacher, Ludlow Infant Academy

Beverley Pennekett from the Education Funding Agency was present as an observer and was welcomed to the Meeting.

Members passed a vote of thanks to Alison Parsons who had very kindly provided the venue and refreshments for the Meeting.

The Forum was informed that prior to this Meeting an email had been received from the Department for Education (DfE) informing officers that the mobility factor in the allocation tool provided to the Local Authority was incorrect and consequently this had resulted in the figures in the reports submitted to the Meeting being incorrect.

A discussion ensued and it was AGREED that a Special Meeting would be convened on 20th January 2015 where an amended briefing paper would be provided which would include options to meet the shortfall in funding for the High Needs Block.

It was also AGREED that details on the Private Initiative Funding (PFI) would be provided to Members.

2. **NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th September 2014 were approved as a correct record.

3. **HIGH NEEDS BLOCK**

The Forum received the briefing paper of the Finance Manager, outlining proposals for the High Needs Block including funding for Special Schools, Special Units in Maintained Schools and Pupil Referral Units (PRU's) from April 2015.

The following issues and concerns were noted:-

- that any monies not utilised in the High Needs Block would be transferred back into the Schools Block;
- there was no increased Dedicated Schools Grant to cover the significant increase in places at Special Schools for 2015/2016 which would increase from 458 in September 2014 to 508 in September 2015/2016. It was AGREED that officers would inform the Forum at the March meeting the outcome of a query sent to the Department for Education in respect of why the funding for 2015/2016 did not cover the increase in High Needs places. A response was due by 23rd January 2015; and
- concerns were expressed in relation to Schools being reimbursed for support of more than 12 hours per week **during term time only**. It was noted that professionals had to be recruited on a full-time basis as they would not accept part-time employment and the shortfall in salaries would have to be funded by the Schools themselves.

4. **2015/2016 SCHOOLS BLOCK**

The Forum considered the decision paper of the Finance Manager detailing the 2015/16 Schools Block and requesting approval of the Central Expenditure elements, including the de-delegation of the centrally held Trade Union budget.

The following issues and concerns were noted:-

- that specific criteria should be set for the De-delegated Budget – Intervention Fund and Schools applying for this support funding should meet the requisite criteria; this budget should not be utilised for School improvements or by Schools with deficits;
- that Academy, Special School and Non-School Members were not eligible to vote on de-delegated budget funding and Primary and Secondary Members were only entitled to vote on their own phase;
- that the 2015/2016 Primary Growth Fund (to support those Primary Schools expanding as part of the Primary Review) should not be reduced and should be kept at the 2014/2015 rate of £33,400 per extra class as the Forum felt it was important that an experienced teacher be recruited rather than a newly qualified teacher (NQT) and the reduced funding would not cover the salary of an experienced teacher; and
- that officers provide further clarity on the Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) and Music Publishers Association (MPA) Licences budget.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the de-delegation of the centrally held Trade Union budget at a rate of £70,600 in 2015/16 be approved; and
- (ii) that as the figures detailed in the reports were incorrect, officers would submit an amended briefing paper, which would include options to meet the shortfall in funding for the High Needs Block for a decision at the Special Meeting scheduled for 20th January 2015.

5. **EARLY YEARS BLOCK**

The Forum considered the decision paper of the Finance Manager detailing the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocated within the Early Years Block and requesting approval of the Central Expenditure elements.

It was noted that Early Years funding (participation funding) differed from School funding because providers were funded for the child's hours that were provided each term, rather than on an annual pupil count.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the proposed Early Years Block funding of £14.0 million be noted; and
- (ii) that the following Central Expenditure elements of the Early Years Block be approved:-

• Early Years and Childcare Development Team	£ 318,400
• Provision for expansion of 3 and 4 year old places	£ 265,900
• Contracts with National Child-Minding Association, Pre-School Learning Alliance and MENCAP	£ 221,500
• Data Team Officer responsible for allocating funding to providers	£ 32,000
• Overheads covering central costs including Finance, HR and IT	£ 172,600
• AVCO System	£ 8,700

6. SOUTHAMPTON SEND OUTREACH SERVICE

The Forum received a briefing paper from the Interim Head of the 0-25 Service outlining how the key elements of the current outreach support to Mainstream Schools could be re-shaped to deliver an integrated service.

The following comments and issues were noted:-

- that an increase in Special Schools places would relieve pressures on Maintained Schools;
- that Special Educational Needs (SEN) assessments were now being completed prior to children commencing school in Year R;
- that there would be one Outreach Service for Schools, provided by Springwell School;
- that the Outreach Services provided in Year 1 would be a Level 1 **free** core service, a level 2 **charged** enhanced service, a Level 3 **charged** intensive service and **charged** additional services; and
- that a paper providing further details on the Integrated Southampton Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Outreach Service would be submitted to a future Meeting.

**SCHOOLS FORUM
NOTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 20th JANUARY 2015
CANTELL MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE**

Present:

Primary School

Peter Howard	-	Headteacher, Fairisle Junior School
John Draper	-	Headteacher, Swaythling Primary School
Julie Swanston	-	Headteacher, Woolston Infant School
Mark Sheehan	-	Headteacher, Mansbridge Primary School

Secondary Schools

Richard Harris (Chair)	-	Governor, Cantell Maths and Computing College
Ruth Evans	-	Headteacher, Cantell Maths and Computing College

Special Schools

Andy Evans	-	Headteacher, Great Oaks School
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Academies

David Turner	-	Governor, Townhill Infant School
Anne Murphy	-	Business Manager, St Anne's Convent

Pupil Referral Unit

Alison Parsons	-	Headteacher, Compass School
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Non-Schools

Anna Wright	-	PVI Provider of Early Year entitlement
Peter Sopowski	-	NUT Secretary

Also in attendance:

Councillor Jeffery	-	Cabinet Member for Education and Change
Theresa Leavy	-	SCC – People Directorate
Robert Hardy	-	SCC – People Directorate
Dave Cuerden	-	SCC – Finance
Sharon Pearson	-	SCC – Democratic Services

1. **APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)**

Apologies were received from Amanda Talbot-Jones, Liz Mizon, Karen Waters, Alice Wrighton and Councillor Dr Paffey.

Members passed a vote of thanks to Ruth Evans who had very kindly provided the venue and refreshments for the Meeting.

Andy Evans, Great Oaks School kindly agreed to host the Meeting scheduled for 11th March 2015.

The following was confirmed in relation to queries and concerns raised at the Meeting on the 14th January 2015:-

- **Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) and Music Publishers Association (MPA) Licences** –from 2015/16 the Department for Education (DfE) would purchase these licences on behalf of Schools nationally. Schools would not need to purchase these directly and therefore the funding would be held as a Central Services Budget and the Average Weighted Pupil Unit would be adjusted to fund the central allocation.
- **Private Finance Initiative (PFI)** – Confirmation was provided that the amount that the Local Authority paid towards the contract from the General Fund, £360,000 would be picked up by the three PFI Schools as per an agreement with the Schools, phased in from 2018. The amount of £450,000, PFI factor, that reduced the budget share for all Schools, would continue to the end of the contract in August 2031.
- **support of more than 12 hours for High Needs places during term time only** – the 45.62 week contract was included within the rate and therefore the post was fully funded.

2. SCHOOLS AND HIGH NEEDS BLOCKS

The Forum considered the briefing paper of the Finance Manager outlining the changes made to the proposals for the High Needs Block and Schools Block presented at the 14th January 2015 Meeting. The briefing paper was considered in conjunction with the reports provided for the Meeting on 14th January 2015, in order that decisions on the recommendations previously outlined could be made.

The following was noted:-

- that prior to the 14th January 2014 Meeting an email had been received from the Department for Education (DfE) informing officers that the Mobility factor in the allocation tool provided by the DfE was incorrect and consequently this had resulted in the figures in the reports being incorrect;
- that there had been an error in the number of Maintained Special School places that had been presented as there should have been 170 places at Great Oaks and not 162 as previously detailed; this had created a further pressure which would require a corresponding increase in the level of transfer from the Schools Block of £90,500;
- if the Primary Growth Fund rate per classroom was retained at £33,400 for 2015/16 it would create a further pressure of £183,600 within the Schools Block. It was AGREED that a paper would be submitted to the March Meeting proposing a new rate for the Primary Growth Fund to commence with effect from April 2016;
- that the following three options to reduce the Schools Block funding for transfer to the High Needs Block was presented to the Forum for decision:-
 - **Option 1** – reduce the Average Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) by a further £95.02 and scale all gains back by 100%;
 - **Option 2** – reduce the fixed lump sum by £34,770 with no changes to AWPU and scale all gains back by 100%; and

- **Option 3** – reduce the fixed lump sum by £17,000 (50% of Option 2) with the balance coming from AWPU (£48.15) and scale all gains back by 100%;

the preferred option was Option 1, as this reduced Schools budgets proportionately in line with pupil numbers; and

- de-delegation of the Intervention Fund – a decision was required to de-delegate this budget for 2015/16 and Primary and Secondary Members would need to decide separately for their phase. Monies not spent in this fund would revert back to the Schools Block. It was AGREED that the budget for this would be reduced to £100,000 and that a paper would be submitted to the March Meeting proposing a set of criteria on which funding bids could be assessed. It was noted that there were no contingencies or surplus funding to fall back on if this fund was not adequate.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the following Central Expenditure elements of the Schools Block be approved:-

- Primary Review Growth Fund £ 901,800
- Admissions Function £ 422,100
- MASH and Early Help £ 626,800
- CLA and MPA Licenses £ 127,500

De-delegated

- Intervention Fund £ 100,000
- Trade Union Duties (approved at £ 70,600
the 14 January 2015 Meeting)

- (ii) that the transfer of £1,808,300 of funding between the Schools Block and High Needs Block for 2015/16 be noted; and
- (iii) that Option 1 to reduce the Schools Block to fund the pressure within the High Needs Block be approved.

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DECISION PAPER

SUBJECT: ALLOCATION OF GROWTH FUND TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS 2016-17
DATE: 11th MARCH 2015
RECIPIENT: SCHOOLS' FORUM

SUMMARY:

The DfE announced as part of their schools funding reform that Local Authorities can hold back funds previously distributed to schools in respect of growth in pupil numbers as a direct result of basic need and redistribute these by a method approved by the Schools Forum. An agreed methodology for distributing the growth fund has been in place since 2013/14. In light of recent pressures within the Dedicated Schools Grant it is appropriate to review this methodology and to propose an alternative.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Schools Forum :

- (i) Approve one of the proposed methods of allocation of resources held within the primary growth fund.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The DfE approved the redistribution of funding for basic need, this will allow the LA to support those primary schools experiencing increases in pupil numbers.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. The growth fund could be delegated to all primary schools as part of the funding formula however expanding schools would then be responsible for funding any extra costs from their own budget shares.

BACKGROUND and BRIEFING DETAILS:

3. Currently, primary schools that are affected by growth in the forthcoming year receive an allocation based on the increased number of classes required (assumed 30 pupils per class). The actual sum per class agreed at Schools Forum in December 2012 was £33,400, based on the costs of a teacher, an LSA and a lunchtime supervisor.
4. The ISB contingency can also be available to fund schools that experience financial difficulty as a result of an unexpected significant increase in number on roll. However, criteria for the future use of the ISB contingency is subject to a further report being presented to the Schools Forum 11th March 2015.

5. The proposals for the future level of the Growth Fund, for consideration within this report, are outlined as follows.

Option 1

Remains at the same financial level. Additional funding is based on the increased number of classes required (based on 30 pupils per class). £33,400 per extra class would be allocated, based on the costs of a teacher, an LSA and a lunchtime supervisor.

Option 2

Same methodology however the financial amount is lessor. Additional funding is based on the increased number of classes required (based on 30 pupils per class). £26,600 per extra class would be allocated, based on the costs of a teacher, an LSA and a lunchtime supervisor for 7/12's of the year.

The principal change is that option 2 takes account of the timing of the arrival of the extra class, i.e. from September and therefore only allocates 7/12's of the cost of the staff outlined.

In addition it may also be appropriate to include a further sum as a contribution toward any hardware or furniture costs associated with the additional class. This principle has not been applied previously however this has been mitigated by the current allocation being based on 12 months of staffing costs.

6. The EFA have indicated that either option detailed above would be acceptable as a method for distributing the growth fund.
7. A review of the growth fund and/or the financial level will need to take place each year to ensure there is adequate resource to fund future increases in PAN.

Appendices/Supporting Information:

None

Further Information Available From:

Name: David Cuerden

Tel: 023 8083 3878

E-mail: David.cuerden@southampton.gov.uk

BRIEFING PAPER

SUBJECT: SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND UNIT PROVISION 2015/16
DATE: 11TH MARCH 2015
RECIPIENT: SCHOOLS FORUM

THIS IS NOT A DECISION PAPER

SUMMARY:

1. This paper outlines the proposals for the funding for Special Schools, units in Maintained Schools and Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) from April 2015.

BACKGROUND and BRIEFING DETAILS:

2. Special Schools, Special Free Schools and Special Units

The local authority has identified, based on current profile, the number of places required at the five Special schools, four Special units and one Free school in the 2015/16 financial year.

School	Places April 2015	Places Sept 2015
Springwell School	112	128
Great Oaks School	162	170
The Cedar School	70	70
The Polygon School	55	55
Vermont School	28	32
Rosewood School	32	32
Tanners Brook Primary School	14	14
Redbridge Community School	7	7
Bitterne Park School	8	8
Compass School	160	160
Total	601	618

3. Special schools, Special Free Schools and maintained schools with a special unit are funded on the basis of a flat £10,000 per place plus a per pupil top-up. Schools only receive top-up funding for the actual numbers of pupils in their school.
4. Whilst there is not a Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) for Special school and units, there is a requirement that the top-up element of the funding is set at such a level that, if all the places were filled and the pupils came from the maintaining authority, the school's budget would reduce by no more than 1.5%.
5. Considering the pressures on the High Needs Block for 2015/16 and the subsequent requirement to transfer over £1.8M of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block, the top-up rates set for 2015/16 reflect the MFG described above. This is consistent with the change of funding in mainstream schools to accommodate the transfer of funding between blocks.

BRIEFING PAPER

6. Note that it is the special school top-up rate that has been amended for the MFG and so schools with an increasing number of pupils will still see an overall increase in funding.
7. It is planned for a paper to come to Schools Forum in the Autumn Term to put forward proposals on a review of Special Schools Funding.
8. Pupil Referral Unit – Compass School

The PRU will be funded for 160 places. This year the DfE have implemented an increase in place funding. Each place will attract a base level of funding of £8,000 per annum from the High Needs Block for the period to September 2015. From September onwards this increases to £10,000 per annum. This creates an average for the financial year of £9,167.

The DfE has stated that this increase in place funding is to be offset by reductions in top-up funding so that the overall levels of funding remain the same (assuming no changes in overall place numbers).

This has meant a reduction in top-up costs for both the LA and the school but does the setting greater certainty over a larger proportion of its income.

Top-up funding per pupil will be paid by the commissioner of the place (either the local authority or a school) on the basis of three place types – Band 1, 2 and 3. It should be noted that for Higher Needs Pupils, that would otherwise require placement within a special school setting, top up funding will be paid on the basis of the Polygon top up rates.

Appendices/Supporting Information:

Appendix 1 2015/16 Special School and Unit Provision – Top Up Rates

Further Information Available From:

Name:	David Cuerden
Tel:	3878
E-mail:	david.cuerden@southampton.gov.uk

		Apr	Sep	Total	Per Place Funding	Band 1 Places	Band 2 Places	Band 3 Places	Top up per Band 1	Top up per Band 2	Top up per Band 3	Top up funding assuming NOR	Total assuming NOR
Special Schools													
7035	Springwell School	112	128	121	£1,213,000	43	64	14	£7,544	£11,316	£15,088	£1,263,252	£2,476,252
7036	Great Oaks School	162	170	167	£1,667,000	53	89	25	£5,202	£7,803	£10,404	£1,227,970	£2,894,970
7037	The Cedar School	70	70	70	£700,000	10	34	26	£7,919	£11,878	£16,555	£913,478	£1,613,478
7039	The Polygon School	55	55	55	£550,000	16	10	29	£6,484	£9,726	£12,967	£577,051	£1,127,051
7040	Vermont School	28	32	30	£303,333	2	17	11	£7,713	£11,569	£15,425	£385,634	£688,968
		427	455	443	£4,433,333	124	214	105	£34,862	£52,292	£70,440	£4,367,384	£8,800,718
Maintained with Special Units													
2436	Tanners Brook Primary School	14	14	14	£140,000	14	0	0	£4,662	£0	£0	£65,264	£205,264
4270	Redbridge Community School	7	7	7	£70,000	7	0	0	£4,727	£0	£0	£33,086	£103,086
4278	Bitterne Park Secondary	8	8	8	£80,000	8			£100			£800	£80,800
		29	29	29	£290,000	29	0	0	£9,488	£0	£0	£99,150	£389,150
Maintained Total		456	484	472	£4,723,333	153	214	105	£44,350	£52,292	£70,440	£4,466,535	£9,189,868
7050	Rosewood					0	0	32	£7,919	£11,878	£16,555	£529,751	£529,751
1116	The Compass School (PRU)	160	160	160	£1,466,667	15	105	40	£3,868	£4,746	£14,421	£1,133,188	£2,599,855

Compass - Charges to Schools:

Band 1 - KS1/2 Dual Roll Placement (Cost per week)	£99
Pupil Premium	£34
Band 2 - KS3/4 Dual Roll Placement (Cost per week)	£122
Pupil Premium	£24
Band 3 - Alternative Pathway	£5,409
Pupil Premium	£935

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BRIEFING PAPER

SUBJECT: INTERVENTION FUND
DATE: 6TH MARCH 2015
RECIPIENT: SCHOOLS FORUM

THIS IS NOT A DECISION PAPER**SUMMARY:****Intervention Fund**

At the January 2015 meeting of Schools Forum, a revised figure for the de-delegated Intervention Fund of £100k for 2015/16 was agreed.

It was also agreed that a set of criteria governing the use of this fund should be presented to the next meeting of Schools Forum, given that past use had included a wide variety of support from the full costs of an Interim Executive Board to relatively minor amounts to cover unplanned expenditure.

The purpose of this fund also appeared to be unclear in that it has been described as (and used as) a fund to support both intervention in schools and to support schools in financial difficulties.

Since that meeting, we are also able to report on the projected underspend on this fund in 2014/15 and the possible roll-forward of those funds, amounting to approximately £200k.

Proposals

1. Given that the creation of an IEB is estimated to cost in the region of £70k, the ability to meet this cost needs to be retained as part of the overall funds available. To ear-mark this amount within the agreed 15/16 Intervention Fund, would reduce the balance of that fund to £30k.

It is therefore suggested that an element of the 14/15 underspend is set aside for the specific purpose of resourcing one IEB per year and that this sum continues to be rolled forward if unused.

2. Other intervention support, linked to the outcomes/conclusions of Schools Monitoring Group meetings or the outcome of inspections may also be needed for individual schools. It is assumed that in the first instance an application should be made by one of the teaching schools to enable them to provide this support and if resources cannot be accessed by this way, then this fund could be used to provide additional support in those circumstances.

BRIEFING PAPER

3. These funds have in the past been seen as also available to support schools in financial difficulties and this should remain the key purpose of the agreed £100k.

In considering requests from schools for assistances, school balances will always be examined and taken into account.

If the level of balances exceeds 5% of a secondary schools' current year budget share and 8% at primary, then requests will normally be refused unless it can be demonstrated that once ear-marked reserves are taken into account, balances fall below these percentages.

4. The maximum amount available for any school would be £30k.
5. The decision on allocating funding rests with the Principal Officer for Education & Early Years.

Further Information Available From:

Name:	Robert Hardy
Tel:	023 8083 3357
E-mail:	robert.hardy@southampton.gov.uk

BRIEFING PAPER

SUBJECT: DE-DELEGATION
DATE: 6TH MARCH 2015
RECIPIENT: SCHOOLS FORUM

THIS IS NOT A DECISION PAPER

Summary:

This paper asks Schools Forum to agree to further work being undertaken on additional areas for de-delegation.

Background and Briefing Details:

Extract from DfE Schools Finance Operational Guidance. Pages 23 to 27 refer to this issue.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/390387/Schools_revenue_funding_2015_to_2016_operational_guide_Dec_2104.pdf

De-Delegation

The following is a summary of what is allowable and the current position in Southampton

De-delegation applies only to maintained primary and secondary schools. It needs approval by Schools Forum and this must be agreed separately by Primary and Secondary members. Special Schools, nurseries and the PRU fall outside this and therefore have no vote.

These are the services that can be de-delegated:

- Contingencies (including schools in financial difficulties and deficits of closing schools); *SCC has a de-delegated Intervention Fund; proposed criteria for its use are the subject of a separate paper on this agenda.*
- Behaviour support services; *No de-delegation.*
- Support to underperforming ethnic groups and bilingual learners; *No de-delegation.*
- Free school meals eligibility; *There is currently an SLA in place.*
- Insurance; *There is currently an SLA in place.*
- Museum and library services; *No de-delegation.*
- Licences/subscriptions; *No de-delegation – DfE now pays for this and invoices SCC – so this is now under the heading of Central Services and funding recovered from schools by reducing the amount paid in their budget share.*
- Staff costs supply cover (e.g. long-term sickness, maternity, trade union and public duties). *De-delegation of Trade Union activity has been agreed.*

BRIEFING PAPER

Proposals for further consideration

Having established the range of possible areas for de-delegation as listed above, this paper asks whether Schools Forum will consider further work being undertaken and detailed proposals being brought back to a future meeting on potential de-delegation or central retention in the following areas:

1. Behaviour Support

We would want to examine what resources are currently available and what (if any) deficits exist to support the work of PHIG and IYFA so that support to schools in relation to behaviour (short of exclusion, managed move or placement at Compass) can be robust and equitable across the city

2. Restorative Practice

There is a clear appetite within schools for the short-term pilot in the city (largely funded by the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner) to become a city-wide approach. In order to make this work and become sustainable, there is a need to examine whether this can be resourced by individual schools or whether there is a case for de-delegation.

3. Independent placements for pupils accused or convicted of serious criminal offences

There are a small number of pupils each year who are accused or convicted of serious offences for whom we still have an obligation to educate. Although we work closely with all mainstream schools to provide additional support for these pupils, there are cases (often involving sexual or violent offences) where no local school is able to accept the pupil, so we need to consider independent sector placements and no budget currently exists to support this.

Further Information Available From:

Name: Robert Hardy

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E-mail: robert.hardy@southampton.gov.uk

BRIEFING PAPER

SUBJECT: PUPIL PREMIUM GRANT
DATE: 6TH MARCH 2014
RECIPIENT: SCHOOLS FORUM

THIS IS NOT A DECISION PAPER**SUMMARY:**

This report summarises the use by Southampton City of the retained element of the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) for Children Looked After in 2014/15 and sets out proposals for retention and use in 2015/16.

The basis for the DfE calculation of the amount available in Southampton is the number of Children Looked After aged 4 to 15 as set out in the end of March statutory data return for CLA. The grant per CLA in 14/15 was £1,900.

In July 2014, Graham Talbot wrote to all Heads setting out proposals for the distribution of PPG in 2014/15 and unfortunately the staged payments set out in that letter were not implemented and the full amount being passported to schools was paid earlier this term.

That letter set out the decision to retain £1,000 of the PPG per pupil and also stated:

“As the interim Head teacher for Southampton’s Virtual School for Children Looked After, the responsibility for ensuring effective arrangements are made and for the effectiveness of the expenditure of the £1900 per child in care, has been placed with me.

The recent Ofsted inspection has highlighted the need to ensure that this funding is firmly aligned to quality Personal Education Plans (PEP) that will improve outcomes. I know you would all support this. I expect the repeat inspection to re-emphasise this.

In order to minimise disturbance while we examine this government change, we are distributing a similar level to schools as in previous years i.e. £900....

Following the inspection, we will need to make some additions to the Virtual School Team as Ofsted was clear it needed more capacity. There also needs to be changes to the way the Virtual School Team works, particularly around involvement in, quality of and impact of PEPs.”

There are four key areas that we have focused on in 14/15 that will also form the core of our proposals for 15/16. These are:

- Staffing the Virtual School (excluding the statutory role of Head of the Virtual School);
- Targeted resources to support academic and emotional readiness to learn;
- Additional educational support for children placed with Independent Foster Carers
- Targeted support identified in PEPs and reviews

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Table 1 summarises the expenditure this financial year under each of these four areas.

Key Area	Budget Allocation
Staffing	£120,000
Targeted Resources	£50,000
Additional educational support	£100,000
PEP Support Fund	Nil

Please note that SCC is yet to receive confirmation of the amount of funding for Pupil Premium for Children Looked After. The funding of the above planned spend is therefore contingent on the level of grant received and the total amount paid to schools for their £900 per pupil per financial year (£300 per term).

For 2015/16, it is proposed to retain these four emphases, but to extend the final one by creating a 'PEP Support Fund' to offer schools the opportunity to bid for additional resources to support innovative individual or group approaches to support PEPs.

This follows the suggestion also contained in Graham Talbot's, which we did not implement in the current financial year. A small 'task and finish' group will be established and Heads invited to join or nominate a representative to develop the criteria for this fund.

At this stage we do not know the total funding that will be available in 2015/16, but as at the middle of February 2015, there were 365 CLA in the eligible age range. **It is proposed that for 2015/16, SCC will retain £1,000 per pupil.**

Table 2 sets out the indicative distribution of resources between the four key areas

Key Area	Budget Allocation
Staffing	£180,000
Targeted Resources	£50,000
Additional educational support	£50,000
PEP Support Fund	£50,000

As part of the further development of the Virtual School, a short-term piece of research has been commissioned to talk to the 20 highest achieving CLA at both KS2 and KS4 (and their carers) to identify the forms of support that they feel were of most value in assisting their achievement.

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The outcome of this research will both inform the design of the Virtual School, the use of the retained element of the PPG and the criteria for the PEP Support Fund.

**Further Information Available
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