

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

Tel: 023 8083 3347

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