

Our Ref:

Date: 29 Dec 2022

Ask for: Sharon Kelly

Direct Line: 01922 652895

Max Vlahakis
Chair of Schools Forum

Dear Max,

School Improvement Services – de-delegation 2023/24

As you are aware, local authorities currently receive the School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering grant to support them in delivering their school improvement functions in maintained schools. These are to monitor the performance of maintained schools, broker school improvement provision, and exercise their statutory intervention powers.

In the January 2022 government response to the consultation on reforming how local authorities' school improvement functions are funded, the ESFA confirmed that the grant was to be phased out and local authorities are now able to deduct funding from maintained school budgets to support the costs of this activity instead. As such, this grant comes to an end in 2022/23 and will not be paid to local authorities in 2023/24.

This equates to a funding loss of £122,940 for Walsall, which would have a significant impact on the viability of the service.

To ensure that councils remain adequately funded to exercise their statutory intervention powers the proposal is to give councils the power in the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations to fund all school improvement activities, including core school improvement activities, via de-delegation of funds from maintained schools' budget shares, with the agreement of their local Schools Forum or the Secretary of State.

At the Schools Forum meeting in October 2022, members voted against approval of de-delegation for School Improvement. Following this outcome, the local authority applied for Secretary of State approval via a disapplication request. The DfE granted approval of this request on 28 December 2022.

To ensure the total funding amount does not exceed the amount of £122,940 provided in 2022/23, as recommended by the DfE, the rate applied in the 2023/24 Authority Proforma Tool (APT) equates to £5.92 per pupil when applied to October 2022 census for pupil numbers.

Should you have any queries in relation to this matter please do contact either Richard Walley or Louise Meredith.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Skelly', with a horizontal line drawn through the middle of the letters.

Sharon Kelly
Director Access & Inclusion