

## SCHOOL FORUM

## Item 9(c)

Members of the School Forum are invited to consider and make comment on the distribution of grant

**Computers for Pupils**

The DCFS have recently announced Computers for Pupils funding until August 2008 to provide additional devices. Walsall is to receive £192,300 capital and £37,900 revenue.

In the previous 2 years of this project, 579 laptops plus 3g connectivity have been distributed across 11 secondary schools. The allocations were based on the original funding targets of Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils resident in the 10% most deprived areas in England, as defined by Index of Multiple Deprivation (2004), and who are eligible for free school meals. This funding was focused where it was likely to have most impact, and also to minimise the administration load and therefore, schools which had fewer than 30 of the target pupils were excluded from the original allocation.

The 11 eligible schools also received a one-off amount of £10,000 for additional support in deploying and supporting these devices, as well as providing training for parents.

However, two schools received significantly more laptops than any other school but the same one-off amount. It is therefore proposed that these two schools receive an additional £10,000 from the new allocation.

Each school involved in the project was asked to identify the appropriate pupils and ensure that they had no internet connectivity. Due to the time delay between the original data being collected and the devices being deployed by schools, a number of these devices were no longer required and schools have experienced issues in deploying all their devices. Further more, pupils may have had internet connectivity but no access to a suitable device and, under the terms of the original funding, would have missed out on this initiative.

**At the time of writing, we are currently awaiting the final guidance but based on the information provided so far, the following are being considered as the basis for distribution of the grant:**

- Existing schools within the project to identify any pupils meeting the original deprivation criteria but have internet connectivity are offered a device where suitable
- A review is then made of any further pupils that meet the initial criteria but are in establishments that have under the minimum of 30 and an allocation made (this will also include complementary education units such as Pupil Referral Units, Hospital educated, Looked After Children). In order to maximise the number of devices, these establishments will not receive one-off support funding
- In any households with more than 2 qualifying pupils, a second device is issued
- Any remaining funding is then allocated on a sliding scale across the same original criteria, looking at 12% and then 15% most deprived areas

**Summary**

Forum members are asked to consider the proposed distribution method and make comment