

Schools Forum

Funding for Extended Schools

**Members of the Schools Forum are requested
to note this report for information**

1. Education Walsall is receiving funding under Standards Fund Grant 106 (Extended Schools) across the financial years 2006-2008. A proportion of this funding is being devolved to clusters of schools under the arrangements agreed with Headteachers.
2. Cluster funding is calculated using two elements (a) an amount for each school within the cluster (£2,000) and (b) an amount for each pupil within those schools (£3.85). It should be stressed that this is intended as a basis for *calculation* and not *allocation*, ie it is anticipated that the funds will be used collaboratively by all the schools in the cluster.
3. According to DfES guidance, Standards Fund 106 should be used to support schools in developing sustainable extended services and overcoming barriers that may prevent them from developing extended services. This includes, for instance, minor capital costs, developing partnerships with key agencies and consulting the main stakeholders (children, parents, community, agencies, etc) about what services are needed.
4. The DfES guidance indicates clearly that the funding is to help *start up* extended services. Over time these services should become self sustainable either through charging, for childcare for example, or through reconfiguring funding strands at local level through children's trusts or by pooling budgets to support extended services in schools.
5. Clusters will need to nominate one school to act as the budget holder, to which the total cluster funds will be transferred. The funds will need to be held as a separate cost centre. The budget holder is accountable to the group for the expenditure incurred.
6. As this funding is to support schools, decisions on expenditure will need to be agreed by the Headteachers of the schools within the cluster. Any multi-agency extended services working group will therefore need to ensure that proposals or recommendations for expenditure are referred to the Headteacher group for ratification.
7. Headteachers in each cluster will need to agree how and when such decisions are made. In the interests of work/life balance, this should not give rise to additional meetings and wherever possible, existing meetings or e-mail should be used.
8. For 2006/07 standards funds must be spent by the cluster by 31 August 2007.

