



Walsall Council

Walsall Children's Services

Report to: Schools Forum

Date: 4th December 2012

Subject: Maintained Secondary Schools De-Delegation

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Purpose of the report: The decision on Maintained Secondary School De-Delegation is a Schools Forum decision. The contents of this report have been developed with secondary headteachers

Recommendations: See final section of report

1. Introduction

1.1 Schools Forum has had previous reports on de-delegation (25 September 2012 and 6 November 2012). The process for potential de-delegation was outlined in the report of 25 September 2012.

1.2 Walsall Secondary Schools have received information regarding the decision and there have been informal discussions.

2. Forum Members who are Eligible to Vote

2.1 Only the following members of Schools Forum are eligible to vote on this issue:

Mr Flynn

Mr Clarke

Mr Hodgkinson

2.2 Operational Guidance from DfE states:

“Optional de-delegation for maintained schools

26. There are some services where maintained schools will be able to decide that some funding should be retained centrally rather than delegated. These are:

- Contingencies (including support for schools in financial difficulties and to support basic need pupil growth);
- Free school meals (FSM) eligibility;
- Insurance;
- Licences/subscriptions;
- Staff costs - supply cover (long-term sickness, maternity, trade union and public duties);
- Support for minority ethnic pupils or underachieving groups;
- Behaviour support services;
- Library and museum services

27. For each of these, it would be for the schools forum members in the relevant phase (primary or secondary), to decide whether that service should be retained centrally. The decision would apply to all maintained schools in that phase and would mean that the funding for these services was removed from the formula before school budgets were issued. **Authorities will, therefore, need to discuss with forum members representing maintained schools, whether there are any services in paragraph 26 which the schools wish to be retained centrally.** Academies would of course be free to buy back into local authority services, as is the case for maintained schools where funding remains delegated.

28. **For each service retained centrally, authorities will need to make a clear statement of how the funding is being taken out of the formula** (for example – primary insurance £20 per pupil, secondary behaviour support services £30 per FSM pupil). There should be a clear statement of how contingencies and other resources will be allocated. Academies will continue to receive a share of funding for these services in their delegated budget.

29. Where there has been agreement that a school is entitled to a contingency allocation, that agreement should be honoured if it converts to an Academy. We may take such decisions into account in making recoupment adjustments.

30. Many local authorities are experiencing significant increases in primary pupil numbers, which are sufficient to require schools to take on additional classes. Given that authorities have a duty to secure sufficient school places, we will be allowing them, with the agreement of the schools forum, to retain funding centrally through contingencies for additional maintained primary school places. The EFA will make separate arrangements for Academies facing increased costs due to pupil growth, and local authorities are not expected to provide contingency for this purpose.

31. Special schools will not in future have delegated budgets on the same basis as primary and secondary schools. They will get £10,000 per place, plus top-up funding for each pupil they have, from the commissioner to make up the rest of their budget. The principle of the new system for high needs pupils is to make costs comparable between schools so that they don't distort placements, so de-delegation is not consistent with this framework."

3. Recommendations

3.1 Maintained Secondary School members of Schools Forum approve de-delegation of Free School Meal Eligibility Service. (£20.10 per pupil)

3.2 Maintained Secondary School members of Schools Forum approve that insurance services will not be de-delegated. Funds will be retained by secondary schools but schools note that a traded service will be available at the value of the delegation

3.3 Maintained Secondary School members of Schools Forum approve de-delegation of Licenses/Subscriptions. (£2.63 per pupil)

3.4 Maintained Secondary School members of Schools Forum approve that Staff Costs – Maternity Supply cover will not be de-delegated, funding will be retained by maintained secondary schools.

3.5 Maintained Secondary School members of Schools Forum approve de-delegation of Staff Costs – Union and Public Duties. (£13.59 per pupil)

3.6 Maintained Secondary School members of Schools Forum advise on the night a decision around Behaviour Support Services. (£63.08 per pupil)

3.7 Maintained Secondary School members of Schools Forum note that Library and Museum Services for secondary have previously been de-delegated so no de-delegation decision is required.