



# Walsall Council

## Walsall Children's Services

**Report to:** Schools Forum

**Date:** 8 November 2011

**Subject:** Standards Fund Shortfall 2010-11

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**Purpose of the report:** To inform the Schools Forum of the Department for Education's decision to fund the complete Standards Fund Grant sum in respect of 2010-11.

**Recommendation:** To note the excellent news and to discuss options for the return of this money to schools.

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Schools Forum is aware of the DfE's funding strategy in respect of the mainstreaming of the 2010-11 Standards Fund Grant, which resulted in all local authorities losing 5% of their total grant allocation. For Walsall schools the sum retained by the government equated to £1.030m.
- 1.2 A report was presented to the Schools Forum on the 14 June 2011 which provided details of a total sum of £324,233 of unallocated Standards Fund Grant as at the start of the 2011-2012 financial year, (see below) which were due to be spent by 31 August 2011.

1-2-1 Tuition	£ 65,034
Targeted Support for Primary Strategy	£159,959
Targeted Support for Secondary Strategy	£ 99,240

The report recommended not to allocate the above grant and to offset it against the £1.030m cash shortfall, as a prudency measure.

## **2. Change of Policy**

- 2.1 The DfE has written to all local authorities on 3 October 2011 to confirm that the government will now pay the full 2010-11 Standards Fund grant over the current Spending Review period, that is between now and 31 March 2015. This is excellent news, and for Walsall, it will free up resources that had been earmarked to cover this cash shortfall.
- 2.2 It will be later in the Autumn Term before local authorities are informed how the grant payments will be profiled over the remainder of the Spending Review period. Once this information is received, the local authority can discuss with its Schools Forum how the released funding is delegated to schools, in line with agreed budget strategies and decisions. Careful consideration will be needed regarding the treatment of Academies.

## **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 Schools Forum is asked to note the confirmation from the DfE to pay the full 2010-11 Standards Fund Grant allocation to local authorities over the life of the current Spending Review, and that further consultation will take place regarding the release of these funds, once the payment profile is received.