**Delegation of Schools Block Budgets 2024-25 – Response Form**

**Maintained Primary Schools**

**THIS RELATES TO MAINTAINED PRIMARY SCHOOLS ONLY. PLEASE ONLY COMPLETE IF YOUR SCHOOL IS MAINTAINED**

The introduction of the ‘hard’ National Funding Formula (NFF) will remove the option of de-delegation that enables some services to maintained schools to be provided centrally and the funding to do so be retained by the local authority. If de-delegation stops then the centrally retained funding would be delegated in the main school budget and the local authority would either stop providing or charge for the service.

The timetable for the final removal of de-delegation has still not been confirmed by central government.

The Estimated value per pupil are indicative amounts only based on current year values, this may change depending on DSG allocation issued by ESFA in December 2023.

The Schools Forum will make a decision about this on 28 September 2023, but they need your feedback to assist them.

**Please complete this form to indicate your views on the delegation of this funding by Friday 15 September 2023**

**School Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Approved by: Headteacher/Governing Body/Both**

(Delete as appropriate)

If you are completing this response form directly into word double-click on the appropriate shaded box answer and select ‘Checked’ from the default value options.

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| **Free School Meal Eligibility**  This funds the administration process of free school meals. Services are also traded through Warwickshire Education Services.  ***Implications of delegation:***  As with academy schools where Warwickshire's service is not purchased, schools will need to develop their own systems for receiving applications and checking eligibility. Schools will need to check eligibility on a regular basis and respond to any queries or complaints from parents. Parents will no longer be able to apply for Free School Meals via Warwickshire County Council's Customer Service Centre or website and schools will not have access to real-time eligibility data or the dedicated Department for Work and Pensions helpline (only available to Local Authorities). Should funding not be de-delegated the Local Authority will offer no guidance or support on Free School Meals eligibility. | |
| Estimated value per pupil | £0.65 |
| Do you want the LA to retain this funding and continue to provide this service in 2024-25?  Yes  No | |

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| **English as an Additional Language**  ***Implications of delegation:***Support involves capacity building training to skill up key practitioners in schools to carry out EAL assessments, identify learning targets, classroom strategies and provide effective inductions for EAL newly arrived learners from overseas. All assessment resources are provided as part of the training and ongoing advice and guidance for trained schools is available.  Schools with trained practitioners in place can refer EAL learners deemed as complex cases for EAL-SEND assessment, support with EHCPs, multi-agency work (e.g., Early Help), home-school liaison, etc.  Included in the offer are three EAL Network meetings delivered once a term. | |
| Estimated value per pupil | £4.48 |
| Do you want the LA to retain this funding and continue to provide the service in 2024-25?  Yes  No | |
| **Trade Union Facility Time Funding**  ***Implications of delegation:*** The Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 creates a statutory right for Union Representatives of recognised unions to reasonable paid time off from employment to carry out trade union duties and to undertake trade union training. The County Council recognises the following Unions: NASUWT, NUE, ASCL, NAHT, VOICE, GMB, Unison and Unite.  In order to comply with these Regulations, WCC operates a county wide “pool” arrangement covering all maintained schools, whereby appointed union representative of each of the recognised unions attend consultative meetings (e.g., policy implementation) on a county basis and are also called upon to represent members in individual schools. This pool arrangement avoids schools needing to establish individual bargaining arrangements for each school.  Where appointed representatives are absent from the classroom to attend to their union duties, the school where they are employed are reimbursed from this centrally held budget, for the cost of a supply/cover teacher.  The implications of this budget being delegated to schools would be that there would be no further reimbursement of supply cover arrangements which would have a disproportionate effect on the schools that employ union representatives leaving these schools financially disadvantaged.  Additionally, if a maintained school were not entering in the pooled facilities funding arrangements it is possible that trades unions might choose not to recognise the consultation undertaken centrally on policies as being applicable for a school that does not de-delegate. This would potentially need an individual school to consult on each employment related policy with the regional officials of the various unions at school level before it can implement thus avoiding unnecessary misunderstandings and disputes. Currently the de-delegated funding ensures this is all undertaken centrally on behalf of those schools.  In summary schools need to be aware of the following if they chose not to de-delegate:   * School-based representatives would be required to be trained to the same level as current county-level union officials to be accredited and indemnified from their respective organisations for casework and to be mandated to consult and negotiate on pay and conditions of service matters. * School-based representatives would be required to attend regular update training, requiring time-off. * School-based representatives are entitled to reasonable paid time off to carry out their duties. * Although the training is currently provided free of charge, the estimated overall release time costs to a school for fully trained representatives for the three major teaching unions alone working to the required standard is in the region of £7,500 to £10,000. This estimate excludes any time a school representative would need to meet with County or Regional Officials and Health and Safety training or refresher courses. If appropriately trained school-based representatives are not available: * Case work would need to be managed by regional officials. Regional officials do not have local knowledge nor local working relationships. Such knowledge and relationships can often be helpful in managing a case to a successful resolution. It should also be noted that the involvement of a full-time regional officer prematurely can have the effect of escalating the situation in an unhelpful way * The resolution of low-level issues requiring negotiation is likely to be prolonged due to the need to wait for availability of a regional officer. * Regional officials cover the whole of the West Midlands region, and their availability will be limited. There may be delays in holding hearings and meetings. | |
| Estimated value per pupil | £2.75 |
| Do you want the LA to retain this funding and continue to provide the service in 2024-25?  Yes  No | |

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| **School Improvement**  ***Implications of delegation:***This funding buys in support from system leaders for schools where some intervention or assistance may be required. It does not support staffing but without the funding, the staff employed by the LA to carry out statutory intervention work would have no resources to offer practical support to schools, such as training and development, support for maintained school inspections or ad hoc advice and assistance.  Whilst there is a risk to vulnerable schools if this funding is delegated, the LA would still be able to carry out its statutory functions.  Please note the Secretary of State has the power to approve this de-delegation contrary to the decision of Schools Forum. This is to ensure councils are adequately funded to exercise their core school improvement activities. | |
| Estimated value per **primary** pupil | £6.75 |
| Do you want the LA to retain this funding and continue to provide this service in 2024-25?  Yes  No | |
| **Gypsy & Romany Travellers**  This service provides three locally based, experienced GRT education support officers who work in partnership with schools, families and services to improve outcomes for children from Traveller communities. Nationally, these pupils are the most underperforming group across every key stage.  ***Implications of delegation:***If this service was not provided centrally, then schools may well see an increase in costs with these children attending less and having lower attainment. Someone from the school would need to contact/visit these families to get the pupil back into school or trace their whereabouts. The service also delivers cultural awareness training that schools would need to provide or source themselves. | |
| Estimated value per **primary** pupil | £3.74 |
| Do you want the LA to retain this funding and continue to provide the service in 2024-25  Yes  No | |

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| **Specialist SEND Support Services**  ***Implications of delegation:*** This money is paid directly to primary schools for pupils at SEN Support without an Education, Health & Care Plan, who meet the criteria for additional support at the point of transition from Early Years' settings into Reception or following assessment by Specialist Teaching Service is in need of additional support.  Often the pupils concerned are unexpected arrivals with complex home circumstances and it is crucial to ensure the child, school and family receive appropriate support rapidly.  Not having this facility would introduce a detrimental delay that could see placement breakdown at home and school. | |
| Estimated value per **primary** pupil | £1.07 |
| Do you want the LA to retain this funding and continue to provide the service in 2024-25?  Yes  No | |

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| **Medical Referral of Employees**  WCC manages a contract for the provision Occupational Health Services. Schools access this service, and a budget is held centrally to which the costs of the medical referral of school based staff are charged. This relates to both the costs of pre-employment medical checks and the referral for medical advice in the management of short term and long term medically related absences from the workplace. The referral process is accessed by all school based staff.  Should the budget be delegated then schools would be invoiced separately for their usage of the service. | |
| Estimated value per pupil | £0.46 |
| Do you want the LA to retain this funding and continue to provide the service in 2024-25?  Yes  No | |

**Education Functions 2024-25**

As well as de-delegation, funding is also recouped from maintained schools to cover the costs of Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS) checks. This recoupment has been approved by schools forum. The estimated rate per pupil is £5.59 (which is the same as 2023/24), but this is subject to change depending on the DSG allocation issued by ESFA in December 2023.

Thank you for completing this form.

Please email the completed form to [schoolfunding@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:schoolfunding@warwickshire.gov.uk)

**by Friday 15th September 2023.**

**Dalbir Kaur**

**Clerk to Schools Forum**