

## **Wiltshire Council**

### **Schools Forum**

**02 December 2010**

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## **Increase to Special Educational Delegation to Secondary Schools**

### **Purpose of report**

1. To consider delegation of the first 15 hours for Physical and Sensory needs Named Pupil Allowances (NPAs) to secondary schools

### **Background**

2. Secondary schools currently have delegation of funds for Special Educational Needs (SEN) up to the level of 15 hours of named pupil allowance (NPA). This arrangement has been in place over a number of years with the most recent adjustment being when schools accepted responsibility for funding for pupils with statements for autism.
3. Sensory and physical needs are the sole remaining type of SEN for the secondary phase not delegated. NPAs relating to physical, hearing and visual needs, for pupils with and without statements of SEN, are currently outside delegation. The value of payments ranges from 1 to 35 hours of NPA. To date in the current financial year 43 pupils have been funded for these types of needs, total value £244,160. Complex arrangements have to be put in place to fund some pupils with sensory or physical needs who also have learning or behavioural needs.
4. Arrangements for primary delegation from April 2011 include all types of SEN. Therefore the funding up to the first 10 hours for hearing, visual and physical needs will be delegated to secondary schools from the beginning of the next financial year.
5. This item is on the agendas of both the Schools' Funding and SEN Groups to provide greater opportunity for consideration by secondary colleagues. The timing and agendas of meetings mean it has not been possible to discuss this item with WASSH prior to the Schools' Forum meetings.

### **Main considerations for Schools Forum**

6. The proposal is that delegation to secondary schools should be increased to include funding for physical, hearing and visual needs. This would establish consistency for secondary school funding across all types of SEN and bring greater clarity to funding arrangements for individual pupils with a range of needs.
7. Implementation options (see appendix 1)
  - a. From April 2011 funding up to the first 15 hours of NPA for physical, hearing and visual needs should be delegated to secondary schools using the same methodology currently used to delegate funding for all other types of need. The sum to be delegated would be £203,785. Additional funding above the 15 hours level would be made in the same way it currently is for learning or behaviour needs. In comparison with the current funding arrangements 18 schools receive more funding and 11 schools less. The pattern of funding gains and losses will vary over time as this funding relates to a small number of pupils.

- b. From April 2011 funding up to the first 15 hours of NPA should be delegated to secondary schools using the same methodology currently used to delegate funding for all other types of need. In addition to option a. protection would be provided in the same way as agreed at the Schools' Forum meeting in October for SEN delegation to primary schools; 50% of any change in funding above 1% of total school budget. This would be calculated using data available in January 2011, however using current figures this transitional funding would apply to no schools.
- c. From April 2011 for any new pupils the first 15 hours of NPA will be provided by their school whilst any pupils currently receiving a fully funded NPA would continue to do so whilst they 'worked through the system'. This would provide extended transition for schools. It would however not release additional funds to increase the total sum delegated to secondary schools and would result in a two tier system for an extended period of time.

#### **Environmental impact of the proposal**

8. None

#### **Equalities impact of the proposal**

9. None – this paper focuses on funding issues.

#### **Financial implications**

10. Outlined within the report.

#### **Legal implications**

11. None

#### **Proposal**

12. Schools Forum is asked to consider the further delegation of NPAs for physical and sensory needs to secondary schools and to identify which of the options in paragraph 7 is the preferred approach.

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#### **Background papers**

The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:  
None

#### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Summary of Changes in Funding from proposed Model