

CIRCULATED AT THE MEETING

Meeting: Schools Forum
Place: Committee Room III - County Hall, Trowbridge
Date: Thursday 3 March 2011
Time: 1.30 pm

The Agenda for the above meeting was published on 24.02.11 and indicated that the reports detailed below would be to follow. These are now available and are attached to this Agenda Supplement.

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This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

9. **Minimum Funding Guarantee Variations** (Pages 1 - 6)

- Late Report - Adjustments to the Minimum Funding Guarantee for 2011-12
- Appendix 1 - Allocation of Former 121 Tuition Grant - Consideration of Options for distribution based on Deprivation or Prior Attainment

13. **Urgent Items** (Pages 7 - 8)

To consider new information received from the DfE, relating to Wiltshire's allocation of Music Grant 2011-12.

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Adjustments to the Minimum Funding Guarantee for 2011-12

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek agreement to vary the normal operation of the DfE's Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) where not to do so would lead to inappropriate MFGs and to update Schools Forum on responses received from the DfE to requests to vary the MFG to date.

Background

2. Local Authorities are required to calculate for each of its schools a guaranteed minimum level of funding based on the DfEs formulae set out in Regulations. The purpose of the guarantee is to provide stability and predictability in school funding.
3. The starting point for the MFG calculation is the per pupil amount an individual school received in the previous financial year, known as the baseline budget share per pupil.
4. The baseline amount is then applied to the DfEs MFG formulae to arrive at each schools Guaranteed Level of Funding for the following financial year taking into account pupil number changes and the annual MFG percentage adjustment.
5. Schools Forum no longer has the general power to approve variations to the MFG affecting schools covering no more than 50% of pupils in the authority. However, it does not need to seek approval for variations in respect of removing the following from the MFG baseline; Diploma Funding grant and/or the targeted elements of primary and secondary National Strategies Grant or where the variation may result in a higher level of MFG than -1.5%. For all other variations we are now required to seek School Forums agreement to vary the normal operation of the MFG and then to seek the Secretary of States approval.
6. At its meeting on the 2 February Schools Forum agreed that the following adjustments should be applied:
 - a) To remove new school and new year group allowances from the MFG Baseline
 - b) To remove small schools curriculum protection from the MFG Baseline
 - c) To remove service school safety net from the MFG Baseline
 - d) To remove SLC funding from the MFG Baseline from schools experiencing significant pupil growth
 - e) To remove the 6th form non AWPU adjustment from the MFG Baseline
 - f) To remove the basic flat rate from the MFG Baseline for schools experiencing significant pupil growth
 - g) Where a Specialist Learning Centre is to close, to remove the associated funding from the Baseline.
 - h) 1 2 1 allocations of grant paid in 2010-11 as these are deemed to be one-off allocations.

7. At its October meeting Schools Forum also noted that it would be necessary to adjust the MFG Baseline in respect of the additional SEN delegation agreed for secondary and primary schools in 2011-12.

Update on current position

8. Requests to the Secretary of State for the following baseline adjustments have been made:
- a) Where a Specialist Learning Centre is to close, to remove the associated funding from the Baseline.
 - b) In respect of increased SEN delegation; to add to a schools baseline the appropriate amount of devolved funding it received in 2010-11.
 - c) In respect of 1 2 1 tuition funding in 2010-11; to remove the funding totalling £2.1m, paid in 2010-11, from a schools MFG Baseline and add an equivalent amount to the baseline to reflect the revised delegation methodology in 2011-12.
9. Approval has been received from the Secretary of State for a & b above, but not for c.
10. In respect of c, the Secretary of State will not allow the LA to remove the funding from the baseline “unless the funding is allocated including a significant weighting for deprivation or low attainment”. This conflicts with the decision made in February by Schools Forum to allocate this funding through KS 2 and KS 3 AWPUs.
11. As work progresses on calculating school budgets other instances where it would be appropriate to adjust the MFG Baseline come to light. These include:
- a) Transitional protection provided to special schools in 2010-11.
 - b) In year “pupil trigger” funding allocated to schools in late February.

Proposals

12. In respect of 1 2 1 tuition, another funding methodology for 2011-12 must be agreed to enable the MFG Baseline to be adjusted. The following are possible options:
- a. Include the funding in existing sub formulae that are driven by low attainment or deprivation. These are as follows:

Primary

- i. Personalised learning-uses MOSAIC indices of deprivation. This formula is based on the average deprivation score for each school, therefore all schools receive funding.
- ii. Targeted deprivation funding-uses MOSAIC indices of deprivation. This formula targets funding to schools with a high proportion of pupils with high deprivation.
- iii. Personalised learning KS1 SATS Index-Uses KSI attainment scores. This formula targets funding to schools where pupils did not achieve a specified level at KS1.

- iv. SEN delegation-uses MOSAIC indices of deprivation. This is a most recent sub-formula agreed by Schools Forum to use to delegate central SEN funding and targets those pupils in the lowest deprivation quartile nationally.
- v. SEN delegation-uses a mix of Foundation stage profile and KS 1 prior attainment scores. This is a most recent sub-formula agreed by Schools Forum to delegate central SEN funding.

Secondary

- i. Personalised learning-uses MOSAIC indices of deprivation.
 - ii. Targeted deprivation funding-uses MOSAIC indices of deprivation.
 - iii. Secondary SENAs-uses prior attainment scores.
- b. Allocate the funding on free meals entitlement as recorded on the January 2011 census.
 - c. Allocate the funding via the existing Social Needs sub-formula which is based on average free meals entitlement in 2010.
13. To seek the Secretary of States permission to adjust the MFG Baseline of those schools that have received the in-year pupil increase ("trigger") funding in 2010-11 by an amount equal to the funding allocated in 2010-11.
14. To seek the Secretary of States permission to adjust the MFG Baseline of those special schools that received transitional protection by an amount equal to the funding allocated in 2010-11

Recommendation

15. Schools Forum is recommended to:
- a. Decide how to allocate 1 2 1 funding in 2011-2.
 - b. Agree to seek the Secretary of States permission to adjust the MFG Baseline as described in paragraphs 13 and 14 above.

CAROLYN GODFREY
Director, Department for Children & Education

Unpublished documents relied upon in the production of this Report: NONE

Environmental impact of the recommendations contained in this Report: NONE KNOWN

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Allocation of Former 121 Tuition Grant

Consideration of Options for distribution based on Deprivation or Prior Attainment

Sub formula	Drivers	Allocates Funding to All Schools?	Consistent Methodology across Phase/Key Stage?
Primary			
Personalised Learning (deprivation)	Uses MOSAIC indices of deprivation Based on average score for each school	Allocates funding to all mainstream schools Formula can be amended to include Special Schools	Yes
Targeted Deprivation Funding	Uses MOSAIC indices of deprivation Targets schools with high level of deprivation	No – threshold built in to formula	No – different thresholds set for primary and secondary
Personalised Learning KS1 SATS	Uses KS1 attainment scores Targets schools where pupils did not achieve a specific level at KS1	No	No
SEN Delegation (deprivation element)	Uses MOSAIC indices. Targets pupils in the lowest deprivation quartile nationally	No	No – formula is different for primary and secondary
SEN Delegation (attainment element)	Uses a mix of Foundation Stage profile and KS1 prior attainment scores	No	No

Sub formula	Drivers	Allocates Funding to All Schools?	Consistent Methodology across Phase/Key Stage?
Secondary			
Personalised Learning (deprivation)	Uses MOSAIC indices of deprivation Based on average deprivation score for each school	Allocates funding to all mainstream schools. Formula can be amended to include Special Schools	Yes
Targeted Deprivation Funding	Uses MOSAIC indices of deprivation Targets schools with high level of deprivation	No	No – different thresholds set for primary and secondary
Secondary SENAs	Prior Attainment scores	No	No
All Schools			
Free School Meal entitlement	FSM entitlement from January census	Yes (as long as pupils have FSM eligibility)	Yes
Social Needs Sub Formula	Average free meals entitlement	No (incorporates a threshold)	Yes

MUSIC GRANT 2011-12

Background

1. Below is an extract from a letter the council received on 2 March 2011 from the Federation of Music Services.:
2. *“The Government has made available £82.5 million for music education for 2011-12, with allocations to be made to local authorities on the basis that no authority will lose more than 10% of their funding from Central Government compared to the amount received in 2010-11.*

In response to the Music Education in England 2011 Review by Darren Henley, the Government also stated that it would move to a national funding formula which would begin to address the inequities in funding for music experienced over the last 11 years. Allocations for 2011-12 will be made on the basis of the numbers of primary school-aged children in the local authority area with an 11% weighting applied for those children eligible for free school meals.

Because the Department for Education intends that this money be used solely for the purposes of providing or commissioning music education services it has asked the Federation of Music Services to make payments to local authorities on its behalf.

The allocation for Wiltshire for 2011-12 is £528,511. This will be paid by the Federation of Music Services in two instalments – April and December – on receipt of the following declarations and information:

- *For 1st payment (50% in April) a declaration from the Director of Children’s Services, countersigned by the Head of Finance, that he/she accepts that:*
 - *this funding is for music education and that it will be used for the provision or commissioning of music education services;*
 - *the LA is ultimately responsible for ensuring the quality and breadth of provision;*

and a statement of:

- *the level of funding the LA has itself made available for music education;*
- *any LA top-slicing in respect of admin / on-costs; and*
- *the level of music education service (in outline) that the LA will ensure is provided.*

Further guidance will be available during April on the information to be provided in order to draw down subsequent payments; but it will be along the following lines:

- *For 2nd payment (50% in December):*
 - *provisional service data on the numbers of schools and children having 1st access instrumental tuition; numbers of children continuing after 1st access; numbers of ensembles being offered; and*
 - *service plan for the 2011/12 academic year including evidence of building partnerships;*
 - *final service data (when available) plus - where information provided for payment 1 has thrown up areas of concern - evidence that those areas of concern have*

been addressed.

An announcement will be made by the Department for Education in the summer regarding the publication of a National Plan for Music Education and funding for future years.”

Implications for Wiltshire

3. In 2010-11 Wiltshire Council received a grant of £476,850 for music as part of the Standards Fund programme. £183,850 of this sum was devolved to schools to support the provision of music education at Key Stage 2.
4. The increase in grant is welcomed but the change in the purpose and conditions of the grant has implications for the way the grant is allocated and managed in Wiltshire.

Recommendation

5. As notification of the grant has only recently been received and further guidance is not being made available until April Schools Forum is recommended to:
 - i. allocate to schools one third of £183,850 on the current basis to represent the cost of maintaining the provision of music education for Key Stage 2 for terms five and six;
 - ii. to consider future arrangements for the Music Grant at its next meeting.

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Unpublished documents relied upon in the production of this report: None