

Schools Forum Schools Funding Working Group

Minutes – 24th January 2011

Present: Liz Williams, Colin Kay, Martin Watson, Phil Cooch, John Hawkins, Neil Baker, Catriona Williamson, Julia Cramp, Carol Grant, John Kimberley, Tristan Williams, Judith Finney

		Action
1	<p>Minutes from Previous Meeting The note of the meeting of 14th January had been discussed at Schools Forum on 17th January</p>	
2	<p>Supply Cover Insurance Pool PC reported that there is currently a balance of £1.290 million on the Supply Pool and that the pool is in a position to continue with the previous enhancements that had been added, for example cash back payments for schools who claim less than 50% of their premium, and cover for employees who are suspended without a sick note.</p> <p>Having considered the report the Group agreed the following recommendations to Schools Forum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That no inflationary increase is applied to premiums in 2011/12; 2. That cashback payments should continue and that the level of cash back should increase to 100% of the balance after subtracting the claims from 50% of the premium. 3. That Academies be allowed to join the scheme. 	
3	<p>Free School Meals Pooling Scheme PC distributed an update on the current position in the Free School Meals Pooling Scheme to consider whether the all or part of the balance should be redistributed back to schools. It was noted that there has been no redistribution since 2008/09 (balance from 2007/08).</p> <p>The following recommendations to Schools Forum were agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That any redistribution of balance should follow the same methodology as in previous years; 2. That 70% of the balance at the end of 2010/11 should be redistributed, leaving a balance of £49,679 in the pool as a buffer for increased claims in future years. 	
3	<p>Allocation of Former Standards Funds 2011/12 EW and PC updated the group on the further work that had been carried out following the Schools Forum meeting of 17th January.</p> <p>A Flat Rate of £20,000 per Primary School, £50,000 per Secondary School and £20,000 per Special School had been incorporated in to the distribution.</p> <p>Funding for National Strategies, Extended Schools and 121</p>	

	<p>Tuition had been removed from the 2010/11 baseline and redistributed according to the proposed allocation for 2011/12 – this removed the anomalies for one off funding.</p> <p>The cost of the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) under this option was estimated at approximately £64,000 as the numbers of schools losing more than 1.5% of their overall budget is significantly lower than in the previous model presented to Schools Forum</p> <p>The group discussed the impact on funding per pupil of the proposed model. The model protects small schools and therefore increased the funding per pupil in those schools. A model showing a stepped flat rate was requested – with a lower flat rate for smaller schools.</p> <p>It was requested that the funding per pupil is shown in the detail presented to Schools Forum.</p> <p>The group also discussed the allocation of the former Specialist School and High Performing Specialist School grants. It was agreed that a second model be produced distributing the funding for the 1st specialism by AWPU and 50% of subsequent specialisms through AWPU, with the remaining 50% replicating the current year's funding.</p>	
4	<p>Schools Budget 2011/12</p> <p>EW reported that the cost pressure proposals had been updated since the Schools Forum meeting on 17th January. This now left a shortfall in DSG for 2011/12 of £1.3 to £1.6 million.</p> <p>This sum could be funded from the expected rollover from 2010/11 however this would mean there was up to £1.6 million one off funding in the 2011/12 budget. EW stated that this could only be supported if work took place during 2011/12 to identify savings of at least £1.6 million to be removed by April 2012. this would enable time to develop proposals for services who will be trading with academies as well as allowing service reviews following the DCE restructure.</p>	
5	<p>Date & Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>Date of Next Meeting to be confirmed</p>	