

Appendix 1 – Feedback from School Budget Forum 08.01.16

Schools Funding Formula

- Our aim has been to get 2016/17 draft allocations issued to schools early to enable schools to consider the impacts for their school. Early notification of indicative budgets enables schools to appropriately plan for curriculum and staffing for the following academic year. Secondary allocations were issued in December and Primary in early January. In a normal annual cycle schools receive their allocations on the Monday after February half term holiday. Allocations at this stage are draft and may be subject to change as the budgetary process progresses.
- Schools receive a full set of budget papers ensuring full transparency of the schools allocation process. Schools also have an important role in checking and validating the data contained in the funding model.
- Proposal is to uplift the overall schools' budget by 1%. In addition to the 1% uplift £1.095m has been added to the schools' budget to cover the increased costs to schools of the implementation of single status.
- However, in real terms this represents a cost pressure for schools due to the increased costs of the Single Tier Pension, the additional employer contribution to pension costs and the estimated costs of pay awards.

Grant Funding

- Pupil deprivation grant will increase from £1,050 to £1,150 in 2016/17. The impact of this increase means that Flintshire will receive an extra £275k. Due to increases in the level of Free School Meal eligibility in Flintshire the overall increase in PDG in 2016/17 is £477k.
- Welsh Government announced as part of the settlement an intention to transfer the Education Improvement grant into Revenue by April 2016. WG are working on the methodology for achieving this. At this stage indications are that there will be a reduction in total EIG funding but the amount of this is yet to be announced.
- Schools Post 16 funding – early indications from Welsh Government are that funding for post 16 will remain stable in 2016/17, with no reduction in overall funding levels anticipated.

Funding Formula

- Members will be aware that a revised schools funding formula was implemented in 2014/15. However, the funding model cannot remain static and parameters need to be adjusted/revised annually to reflect the available funding and policy decisions.

Primary Funding Formula

- A funding formula review group consisting nominated headteacher representatives and senior officers was established to consider the application of the primary schools funding formula for the financial year 2016/17. The key role of this group was to consider the funding options and bring forward recommendations for consideration by senior officers, Heads Federation and the Schools Budget Forum.
- As part of the review the impact of cost pressures on elements of the formula were modelled, with staffing factors uplifted to reflect the increased costs. To balance the funding formula model within available resources the Funding Formula Review Group considered a range of options.
- The recommendations of the Funding Formula Review Group have been consulted on and considered by the Headteacher Federation and Schools Budget Forum.
- The recommendations made are:
 - Free Breakfast provision is limited to 30 minutes in line with Welsh Government guidance. Schools, wishing to provide a childcare element should charge parents.
 - Any balance of funding to be adjusted against supplies and services through a reduction to the lump sum and the per pupil amount.

Secondary Funding Formula

- Two meetings were held with the Secondary Headteachers to consider the formula for 2016/17. The outcome of these meetings was that the Secondary Formula is largely unchanged from the previous year. One change that was made at the request of the headteachers was to reinstate Element 3 - deprivation - which was taken out last year.

ALN Funding

- ALN is now fully delegated to schools. Funding for full-time and statemented 1:1 support is ring fenced and allocated to schools on an individual child basis. The balance of funding once full time and statement provision is taken into account is distributed on a formula basis to schools. The balance available for distribution is likely to continue to reduce in both sectors due to increasing demand for full-time support.
- A full review/ evaluation of the impact of the delegation of this funding is planned.