# De-delegation of Behaviour Support Services 2025-26

This paper is to provide further information on the above two options as requested by Schools Forum

Extract from de-delegated Services papers for Schools Forum

1. **Options for 2025-26 – Behaviour Support Services**

4.1 Behaviour support services are offered to schools dealing with challenging behaviour; mental health and parental conflict; and increase in complexity due to lack of specialist advice. The team also providing training and support for attendance issues. The funding is ensures schools can ensure statutory compliance and proactive, preventative work, via bought-in service level agreement (SLA), and the de-delegated budget supporting the provision. The de delegation total will meet the cost of the SLA.

4.2 There are two options that the local authority is asking Schools Forum to vote upon:

**Option 1** - to uplift the 2024-2025 per pupil rate by the current Consumer Prices Index (CPI) inflation rate of 1.7%. This would increase the per pupil rate as shown in the table below:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **De-delegated Item** | **2024-2025 Per Pupil Rate Maintained Primary Schools** | **2024-2025 Per Pupil Rate Maintained Secondary Schools** | **2024-2025**  **Per Pupil Rate Special Schools** | **2025-2026 Per Pupil Rate Maintained Primary Schools** | **2025-2026 Per Pupil Rate Maintained Secondary Schools** | **2025-2026 Per Pupil Rate Special Schools** |
| Behaviour Support Services | £4.48 | £7.71 | £0.00 | £4.55 | £7.84 | £0.00 |

**Option 2** - to uplift the 2024-2025 per pupil rate by an exceptional increase of 19.03% to cover the increase in the salaries and on-costs of the two Inclusion Support Teachers. This would increase the per pupil rate as shown in the table below:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **De-delegated Item** | **2024-2025 Per Pupil Rate Maintained Primary Schools** | **2024-2025 Per Pupil Rate Maintained Secondary Schools** | **2024-2025**  **Per Pupil Rate Special Schools** | **2025-2026 Per Pupil Rate Maintained Primary Schools** | **2025-2026 Per Pupil Rate Maintained Secondary**  **Schools** | **2025-2026 Per Pupil Rate Special Schools** |
| Behaviour Support Services | £4.48 | £7.71 | £0.00 | £5.42 | £9.33 | £0.00 |

The de-delegated services for Behaviour Support Services are applicable to maintained primary and secondary schools only as this service is not accessed by special schools.

## Option 1: If the level of de-delegation of Behaviour Support is limited to the CPI inflation rate of 1.7%

Teacher’s salaries have increased significantly over the past 2 years and currently the de-delegation amount, which historically covered 2fte specialist teacher posts, now only covers the equivalent of 1.2fte (with on-costs) The service has been covering the deficit thus far but it has resulted in an overspend and staff not being replaced when they have left, which reduces the experience and specialist skillset available.

If this level of de-delegation were to be continued then the consequence of that would be the need to drastically reduce the number of referrals that the team can manage, bearing in mind that referrals have risen by 25% in the last 18 months and we are already forced to run a waiting list of 2-3 weeks continuously, which was not necessary prior to Covid. Without increasing the capacity of the team, we project that waiting lists would rise to 6-8 weeks for active intervention and support.

Consider whether the Transition programme from Year 6-7 is sustainable. A new methodology of targeting highly vulnerable children based on those already experiencing suspensions and providing more intensive support was trialled last year but there would not be the capacity to continue with this.

Consultations and requests for advice are usually able to be responded to on the same day or within 24 hours, this would have to reduce to a weekly surgery, which is a system that many other local authorities have implemented, but the risk would be that the already rising picture of suspensions and exclusions would only increase without staff having access to immediate advice and intervention.

The Restorative Justice offer has already had to be removed, due to lack of capacity in both time and skills.

## Option 2: Increase the level of de-delegation to reflect the rise of teachers’ salaries (increase of 19.3% - per pupil calculations above)

Return to close to previous levels of capacity to assess, provide targeted intervention and advice and consultation where the current waiting time of 2-3 weeks could be maintained, if referral levels remain constant.

Expand on the Transition programme to encompass pupils who have had a lower level of suspension, include a triage of Year 5 pupils who may already be vulnerable.

Reinstate the Restorative Justice offer.

Recruit to replace specifically Early Years and therapeutic expertise lost through natural wastage.

Maintain an Education presence on the Social Inclusion Panel, Safeguarding Board and other preventative networks.

Invest in more preventative and early intervention work through a thematic analysis and response to emerging issues, eg Early Years and the rise of extremely challenging physical behaviours.

Continue to facilitate peer networks for secondary Behaviour Leads and expand into primary.