Schools Forum Report

De-Delegated Budgets Outturn 2023-24

19/06/2024

**Executive Summary**

This report sets out a review of the de-delegated services during the financial year 2023-24.

It also reports back on the consultation with Special Schools and Alternative Provisions contributing to de-delegated services for 2024-25

**Details of recommendations and timescales for decisions:**

Schools Forum are asked to:

1. Note the contents of this report
2. Consider and agree the proposals for the 2024-25 Special Schools charging contributions to de-delegated services
3. **Background**
   1. At budget setting time each year, Schools Forum will be asked to approve the de-delegation of funding for centrally provided support based on a per pupil formula, considered to be a fair way of accounting for the size of the school and its budget.
   2. The de-delegated funding for 2023/24 supported the following service area:

* School Specific Contingency
* Free School Meal Eligibility Assessment
* Trade Union Facilities
* Behaviour Support and Anti-bullying
* Additional School Improvement
  1. For each item we have provided figures on the overall final budget and expenditure in 2023/24 and the per pupil rate.

1. **Outturn of De-Delegated Budgets 2023-24**
   1. **Schools Block Contingency (not growth)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Amount** |
| **Per Pupil Rate**  **Total Amount De-delegated**  **Expenditure Includes:**  i. Exceptional unforeseen costs which it would be unreasonable to expect governing bodies to meet  ii. Schools in financial difficulty  iii. Additional costs relating to reorganised or closing schools  iv. Funding for schools’ combined subscriptions and policies  **Outturn**  The contingency fund provides for unforeseen expenses in schools during the year. Without a central fund, individual schools facing an unforeseen significant cost may find themselves unable to operate within their delegated budgets. Individual schools may not by themselves be able to build up sufficient contingency to cover this. | £15.89  £442,664  £126,522  (£316,142) |

* 1. **Free School Meal (FSM) Eligibility Assessment**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Amount** |
| **Per Pupil Rate**  **Total Amount De-delegated**  **Expenditure:**  SLA with the Council’s Housing Benefit Service  **Outturn**  The service assesses pupils’ eligibility for free school meals and notifies individual schools on a regular basis of their pupils’ eligibility.  Providing this service centrally means that efficiencies can be gained. Administration at individual school level would be burdensome as entitlement checking would have to be done manually. The service also conducts campaigns on behalf of schools, resulting in increased take up. | £4.10  £114,217  £114,217  £nil |

* 1. **Trade Union Facilities Agreement (TUFA)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Amount** |
| **Per Pupil Rate**  **Total Amount De-delegated**  **Expenditure:**  Backfill cover for TUFA  **Outturn**  The TU Facilities Agreement ensures that representatives are available to enable Schools to participate in collective bargaining and consultation processes. By accompanying staff to formal meetings enables Schools to progress formal actions under HR Procedures.  Holding the budget centrally enables schools to share the costs of supply cover to support the TU facilities time agreement and ensures that individual schools who employ TU reps are not disadvantaged. | £5.23  £145,698  £129,297  (£16,401) |

* 1. **Behaviour Support Services**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Amount** |
| **Per Pupil Rate – Primary Schools**  **Per Pupil Rate – Secondary Schools**  **Total Amount De-delegated**  **Expenditure:**  SLA to Behaviour & Attendance Support Service (BASS)  **Outturn**  The service offers a wide range of advice, assessment, guidance and training which is designed to support schools to develop and deliver their statutory responsibilities for promoting positive behaviour and reducing risk of suspension for vulnerable groups.  Providing this service centrally means that efficiencies can be gained. | £4.40  £7.57  £152,259  £152,259  £nil |

* 1. **Additional School Improvement**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Amount** |
| **Per Pupil Rate**  **Total Amount De-delegated**  **Expenditure:**  SLA with Tower Hamlets Education Partnership (THEP)  **Outturn**  The additional de-delegation of the School Improvement Service followed the phasing out of the Schools Moderation and Brokering grant. The grant was previously allocated to local authorities to allow them to monitor and support performance of maintained schools, broker school improvement provision and provide intervention to raise standards. | £11.77  £327,888  £327,888  £nil |

* 1. The outturn across all the de-delegated budgets in 2023-24 forms part of the overall Schools Block DSG position, which is reported elsewhere on the agenda.

1. **Outcome of Consultation for Special Schools and Alternative Provision Contributions to De-Delegated Services for 2024-25**
   1. At the last Schools Forum meeting in January 2024, it was agreed that the de-delegation contribution rates for special schools and alternative provisions for 2024-25 would be agreed at their next Special Schools Consultative meeting, which took place on 24 January 2024.
   2. The proposal was to extend the same services to these settings (excluding Behaviour Support) and the contribution would be based on the mainstream rate multiplied by number of places x 3.
   3. The Consultative Group agreed to all rates except:
2. Phoenix School should not be based on 3 x places because the numbers are similar to a mainstream school
3. FSM Eligibility should not be based on 3 x places for all special school and alternative provision settings
   1. The proposed special schools and alternative provisions contribution for 2024-25 are as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Places | Contingency | FSM Eligibility **(actual places**)2 | TUFA support | School Improvement | **TOTAL** |
| Setting | (2023-24) | £16.19 | £4.18 | £5.33 | £6.20 |  |
| Beatrice  Tate | 125 | £6,071 | £523 | £1,999 | £2,325 | **£10,918** |
| Bowden House | 62 | £3,011 | £259 | £991 | £1,153 | **£5,415** |
| Phoenix  **(actual places)1** | 470 | £7,609 | £1,965 | £2,505 | £2,914 | **£14,993** |
| Stephen Hawkings | 104 | £5,051 | £435 | £1,663 | £1,934 | **£9,083** |
| LEAP | 224 | £10,880 | £936 | £3,582 | £4,166 | **£19,564** |
| **Total** | **985** | **£32,623** | **£4,117** | **£10,740** | **£12,493** | **£59,973** |

* 1. Schools Forum are invited to consider and agree the proposals for the 2024-25 Special Schools and Alternative Provisions charging contributions to de-delegated services