

REGULATORY AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORT

NAME OF COMMITTEE:	Lincolnshire Schools' Forum
DATE OF MEETING:	27 April 2016
SUBJECT:	Section 251 Budget Statement 2016/17
REPORT BY:	Mark Popplewell (Head of Finance – Children's Services)
NAME OF CONTACT OFFICER:	Mark Popplewell
CONTACT OFFICER TEL NO:	01522 553326
CONTACT OFFICER EMAIL ADDRESS:	mark.popplewell@lincolnshire.gov.uk
IS THE REPORT EXEMPT?	No
IS REPORT CONFIDENTIAL?	No

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide the Schools Forum with a copy of the s.251 budget statement for the 2016/17 financial year.

DISCUSSION

Local Authorities (LA) are required under s.251 of the Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 to prepare and submit an education and children's social care budget statement for the relevant period to the Secretary of State for Education by 31 March each year. The s.251 return is intended to provide a clear picture of the LA's planned spending on its schools budget, de-delegated items, high needs budget, early years budget, central provision within the schools budget and children's and young people's services.

The LA's s.251 budget statement, and the DfE's benchmarking data that will be published later in the year, should assist the Schools Forum's consideration of budget levels and the balance of funding between early years, primary, secondary and special schools.

The information for 2016/17 was submitted to the DfE via its data collection and management system for education (COLLECT) by the 31st March 2016 deadline. As is customary, the DfE will carry out a number of checks on it. However, to ensure compliance with the statutory requirements, the LA has

published the Early Years report, the LA Table report and the Schools Table report in the 'Downloads' section of LCC's website at:

<http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/parents/schools/for-schools/s251-statements>

This means that details are available to all maintained schools and academies; private, voluntary and independent providers that are funded to provide free early years provision to two, three and four year olds. The documents will be refreshed should the DfE require any amendments to the LA's statement.

Attached to this report is a copy of Table 1 – LA level information. This provides an overall picture of the funding being allocated direct to schools, the amount being spent on education centrally and the amount being spent on children's social care.

The LA proposed some changes to the centrally held budgets within the Dedicated Schools Grant for 2016/17. They were reported to and discussed by the Schools Forum at its meeting on 13th January 2016. No material changes have been made to the budgets since then.

The LA will present a report on the s.251 benchmarking data later in the year, following publication of LAs' data by the DfE.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Schools Forum is asked to note the content of the report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following reports were relied upon in the writing of this report.

PAPER TYPE	TITLE	DATE	ACCESSIBILITY
Report to Schools Forum	Schools Funding arrangements 2016/17	13 th January 2016	County Offices, Newland, Lincoln

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: the LA's s.251 Table 1 data for 2016/17.