

REGULATORY AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORT

NAME OF COMMITTEE:	Schools' Forum
DATE OF MEETING:	30 June 2010
SUBJECT:	Additional needs - update
REPORT BY:	Penny Richardson Acting Head of Service – Additional Needs
NAME OF CONTACT OFFICER:	Penny Richardson Acting Head of Service – Additional Needs
CONTACT OFFICER TEL NO:	01522 553215
CONTACT OFFICER EMAIL ADDRESS:	Penny.richardson@lincolnshire.gov.uk
IS THE REPORT EXEMPT?	No
IS REPORT CONFIDENTIAL?	No

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress in Additional Needs.

DISCUSSION

As requested, this report sets out:

- a) The method for developing a structure for monitoring and accountability to support the delegation of SEN funds to schools, and
- b) an outline action plan to guide ongoing development and review of SEN funding to mainstream schools.

It does not refer to the current review of special school and special unit funding that will be dealt with through a separate report.

1. Monitoring and Accountability – Delegated SEN funding

A working group of stakeholders developed a structure for monitoring and accountability based on four strands. These are set out below with progress so far recorded below each.

- (i) Baseline information on funding is available at school and Local Authority level

All schools received a detailed SEN budget pack at the beginning of the Spring Term, with a copy for the head teacher, the SEN governor and the SENCO. SEN support services have copies of this to enable them to consider arrangements for individual pupils, if necessary, on their visits to schools.

- (ii) Processes to track progress of individual pupils and cohorts of pupils with SEN are in place and understood by school staff, Local Authority staff and parents

Recent SENCO conferences covered National Curriculum Progression Guidance, and the role of the SENCO in monitoring progress for children with SEN.

- (iii) The School Improvement Partner will introduce a new focus on outcomes for children with SEN to his/her conversation with the head teacher and governing body.

Training has taken place through CfBT with SIPs to ensure that appropriate challenge will be applied to the development of outcome focused monitoring at school level.

Consideration is being given to the sampling of SEFs to identify approaches to monitoring outcomes for pupils with SEN.

- (iv) Outcome measures and indicators are identified, agreed, understood and reported on at school, locality and Local Authority level.

Further work needs to be undertaken, and a structure of pupil and policy measures to be identified. In addition the capacity of the current Performance system needs to be considered in relation to its ability to monitor progress of pupils against P levels on a more regular basis than beyond end of key stage.

To monitor outcomes at a school level, a package of indicators will be developed to enhance the SIP dialogue and to enhance the School Improvement Report. Example pupil level indicators that can be considered at an individual school level are:

- *Progress and rate of progress against NC levels*
- *Progress and rate of progress against P levels*
- *The above, by type of SEN*
- *Fixed Term exclusions*
- *Permanent exclusions*

Some indicators that reflect policy and general trends in pupil placement, and that can be included at school level could include:

- *Numbers of complaints by parents of children with SEN*
- *Numbers of children who transfer to special school*
- *Referrals to SEN and behaviour support services*
- *Numbers of pupils permanently excluded or who are moved on following managed move, compared to numbers of pupils received from other schools.*

Officers from the School Improvement, Additional Needs, Performance and Schools Finance teams and services are working closely to develop a structure that is workable for more discussion with the working group.

2. Reviewing the SEN funding scheme, and the incorporation of other factors

Officers have been considering a number of issues that arose previously through consultation with headteachers and governors. The intention is to establish a working group in September, comprising Schools Forum and other school representatives, to consider their findings and agree a way forward. The intention is to bring a report to the Schools Forum in October and to consult all schools through area headteacher meetings in the autumn, before final decisions are made after the Schools Forum meeting in January 2011. More detail on the issues being considered is set out below.

<u>Action</u>	<u>How</u>
Review the robustness of current formula indicators, ensuring that there is no potential for subjectivity or manipulation	Working Group of the Schools Forum
Consider whether or not to enhance the model to take account of pupil mobility	Working Group of the Schools Forum
Consider arrangements for continuing transitional protection post March 2011	Working Group of the Schools Forum
Consider the incorporation of the Inclusion Fund and the Medical Budget into the delegated quantum	Working Group of the Schools Forum
Explore location of funding for specialist equipment	Working Group of the Schools Forum
Consider whether or not to extend the level of delegation beyond the current Band 5 threshold	Working Group of the Schools Forum
Explore whether a top up model should apply to the allocation of higher level funding	Working Group of the Schools Forum
Explore mechanisms to monitor resource drift towards increasing dependency on higher level funding	Working Group of the Schools Forum
Identify the nature of exceptional provision that is funded through the centrally retained funding, and establish moderated decision making systems for its allocation.	SENCO seminar on July 8 th to define what is ordinarily available as a baseline to description of exceptional provision. Additional Needs officers to develop decision making approach and seek comment from Working Group of the

Schools Forum

Prepare outcomes of Working Group of the Schools Forum, for a Forum Meeting, and then on for consultation with head teachers and Governors in the latter half of the Autumn Term 2010.

Officers

Meetings with head teachers and governors planned for November 2010

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
Schools Forum Minutes minutes	Additional Needs – update	21 April 2010	Committee Services, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln

APPENDICES

None