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COMMITTEE NAME: Lincolnshire Schools' Forum
MEETING DATE: Wednesday, 15 January 2014
MEETING TIME: 2.00 pm
LOCATION: Council Chamber, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln
 LN1 1YL

AGENDA

Item	Title	Pages
1	Apologies for Absence/Resignations/Replacement Members	
2	Minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2013	1 - 10
3	School Funding Arrangements 2014/15 <i>(To receive a report from Tony Warnock, Head of Finance Children's and Specialist Services, which advises the Schools Forum on school funding arrangements for 2014/15 and seeks support for the Local Authority's proposals relating to a number of centrally held budgets)</i>	11 - 28
4	The School and Early Years Finance Regulations for 2014/15 <i>(To receive a report from Tony Warnock, Head of Finance Children's and Specialist Services, which advises the Schools Forum of the publication of the School and Early Years Finance Regulations for 2014/15)</i>	29 - 36
5	Team Around the Child (TAC) Proposal <i>(To receive a report from Stuart Carlton, Assistant Director Children's Services, which provides the Schools Forum with a proposal to improve TAC arrangements for schools)</i>	To Follow

6	Pathfinder Outreach and Wider Outreach Support	37 - 52
	<i>(To receive a report from Keith Batty, Assistant Director CfBT Education Services, which asks the Schools Forum to consider the options and funding for 2014/15 for Pathfinder Outreach and Wider Outreach Support)</i>	
7	Free School Meal Eligibility	53 - 56
	<i>(To receive a report from Richard Cumbers, Specialist Children's Health Programme Manager – Public Health, which requests the Schools Forum to support the proposed pilot scheme in relation to Free School Meal Eligibility)</i>	
8	Schools Forum Good Practice Guide	57 - 60
	<i>(To receive a report from Tony Warnock, Head of Finance Children's and Specialist Services, which brings to the Schools Forum's attention to the latest DfE's Schools Forum Good Practice Guide)</i>	
9	Academies Update	61 - 64
	<i>(To receive a report from Michelle Andrews, Head of Property and Technology Management, which provides the Schools Forum with information relating to the latest number of pupils in academies)</i>	
10	Information Pack	65 - 70

Tony McArdle
Chief Executive
Date: 7 January 2014



LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS' FORUM 9 OCTOBER 2013

PRESENT: TERL BRYANT (CHAIRMAN)

David Bennett (Governor, Horncastle Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School), Ellenor Beighton (Head teacher, De Aston, Market Rasen), Graham Burks (Head teacher, Kesteven and Grantham Girls School), Professor Ken Durrands CBE (Governor, The Kings School, Grantham), Jonathan Maddox (Head teacher, Bourne Grammar School), Richard Thomson (Head teacher, Rauceby Church of England Primary Academy), Sharron Close (Governor, Tall Oaks Academy Trust), Joanne Noble (Head teacher, Gainsborough Nursery School), Roger Hewins (Governor, Corringham Church of England Primary School), Mr Craig Vincent Miller (Governor, All Saints Church of England Primary School, North Hykeham), John Beaven (Head teacher, Scampton Pollyplatt Community Primary School), Vicky Cook (Head teacher, Welbourn Church of England Primary School), Patricia Ruff (Head teacher, Dunholme St Chads Church of England Primary School), Ian Wilkinson (Head teacher, Deeping St James Community Primary School), Michael Follows MBE (Governor, John Fielding Community Special School, Boston), Bridget Robson (Head teacher, Fortuna Primary School, Lincoln), Claire Flavell (14 - 19 Partnership), Dave Thompson (Pupil Referral Unit) and Councillor Mrs Patricia Anne Bradwell (Executive Councillor Care and Health Services, Children's Services).

Councillor David Brailsford (Executive Support Councillor for Children's Services) attended the meeting as an observer.

Officers in attendance:-

Debbie Barnes (Executive Director Children's Services), Tony Warnock (Head of Finance - Children's and Specialist Services) and Katrina Cope (Team Leader Democratic and Civic Services).

16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from John Beswick (Governor, Stickney Church of England Primary School), John Beaven (Headteacher, Scampton Pollyplatt Community Primary School), Roger Hale (Headteacher, Caistor Grammar School) and Jennifer Wheeldon Headteacher, Ellsion Boulters Primary, Scothern).

17 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 JUNE 2013

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 June 2013 be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

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18 SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM: FINDINGS FROM THE REVIEW OF
 2013/14 & ARRANGEMENTS AND CHANGES FOR 2014/15

Consideration was given to a report from the Head of Finance – Children's Specialist Services, which sought comment from the Schools Forum on the Local Authority's proposals for funding of schools from April 2014. It was reported that in June 2013; the Government had announced a number of changes to the school funding arrangements for 2014/15. The Forum had received outline details of that announcement at their meeting held on 26 June 2013. Since that meeting consultations had taken place with all schools; the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee on 6 September 2013; and a working group of Schools Forum representatives (Membership details were shown at Appendix 1 to the report) on 24 September 2013. The report presented contained the Local Authority's latest proposals for the funding of schools for the next year.

Appendix 2 to the report detailed the eight questions set out in the consultation document. It was reported that since the report had been written the Government had announced that the Looked After Children premium was to be set £1,900 and it was therefore proposed to reduce the Looked After Children factor from £1,200 as previously agreed to £600.

Reference was also made to the De-Delegation of Budgets for Maintained Schools for 2014/15; full details were shown at Appendix 3 to the report.

The Head of Finance – Children's Specialist Services highlighted that only maintained schools could have funds de-delegated and therefore when the Forum voted on the recommendation pertaining to de-delegation, only maintained schools were able to vote. As there was no representative for Secondary Maintained Schools present at the meeting, no decision was made in relation to Equality for Minority Communities budget of (£7k), as detailed in table 2 on page 16 of Appendix 3 of the report.

Academies would not be entitled to vote on this issue. Academies would receive a share of the delegated budget within their budget share each year.

It was also reported that where budgets were de-delegated for maintained schools, any underspendings arising at the end of the financial year would be earmarked for the benefit only of the maintained schools within that sector.

Details concerning the use of the Intervention Budget were appended at Appendix 4 to the report.

Discussion ensued, from which the following issues were raised:-

- It was highlighted in relation to Looked After Children that 350 children were imported into Lincolnshire from other local authorities. The Forum were advised that no funding beyond the Dedicated Schools Grant was received in respect of these pupils and as a local authority we had no say in where a pupil from another authority are placed;

- Some members of the Forum requested information as to how money for Looked After Children was spent. Members were reassured that this information would be made available by the relevant service manager; and
- An explanation of the measures in place for Schools in financial difficulty.

The Forum was advised that the next steps would be:-

- That the views of the Forum would be considered by Children's Services Directorate Management Team and the Executive Councillor, Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell;
- The report would then be drafted for Councillor Mrs Bradwell to approve formally the Local Authority's proposals for future funding of schools. The Forum at this point requested that a copy of the report should be made available to members of the Forum;
- The report would be considered by the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 18 October 2013 prior to the decision being taken by Councillor Mrs Bradwell; and
- That the proforma would then be submitted to the DfE by 31 October 2013.

RESOLVED

1. That the contents of the report presented be noted.
2. That the feedback from the consultation with schools and the working group be received.
3. That the Local Authority's proposals for the future funding of schools be approved subject to the Looked After Children factor being amended to £600.00.
4. That the Maintained Primary representatives supported the proposals for de-delegation of the budgets as outlined in Appendix 3.

19 REVISED SCHOOL BUDGET 2013/14

The Forum gave consideration to a report from the Head of Finance - Children's and Specialist Services, which provided the revised Schools Budget for 2013/14 and sought support for the proposed use of the underspending from 2012/13.

It was reported that the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) was a ring-fenced grant that could only be spent in accordance with the purposes outlined in the DfE's regulations. A revision to the Schools Budget was necessary each year to reflect the under or overspending arising on the DSG in the previous financial year.

The report highlighted that the total underspending to carry forward at 31 March 2013 was £16.688m. Included in this figure was an underspending of £3.345m on the 2012/13 centrally managed DSG budgets. Details of the main underspendings were shown in Appendix 1. The underspendings had arisen, as a result of the Local

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Authority's (LA's) prudent management of the budgets and its on-going strategy of using all other available funds before the DSG.

The current commitments of £9.550m were summarised in Appendix 2. It was highlighted that the LA had no plans to use the underspending from last year to finance new developments. The report also detailed proposals for use of the uncommitted sum and, in view of various uncertainties, it was proposed that £3m of the DSG underspending for last year would be set aside until the future position becomes clearer. As the LA recognises that any uncommitted DSG fund should be put to good use and not retained indefinitely, it was proposed to distribute the remaining balance (c.£4m) to schools using the formula for devolved capital, with both the block and per pupil elements recorded as shown in the report being uplifted by the same percentage.

The Forum were advised that distribution of the £4m would no longer be made as an in-year adjustment due to changes in the DfE's rules. The proposal was to write out to all schools advising them that the allocations would be made available on 1 April 2014.

During discussion, the following points were noted:-

- Consideration should be given to using some of the unallocated DSG for TAC;
- That for the January meeting, the Schools Forum should receive a report, which details the proposed allocations of the £4m DSG underspend;
- Confirmation was given that Academies were included in the redistribution which would take place on 1 April 2014;
- That the Broadband cost was as a result of the overlap from the old to the new contract;
- Outreach Programme – The Forum were advised that a report would be coming forward to the next meeting of the Schools Forum in January 2014; and
- Carbon Management – That an update report should be presented to the next meeting concerning Carbon Management Efficiencies.

RESOLVED

1. That the report be noted.
2. That support be given to the Local Authority's proposals for use of the 2012/13 DSG underspending and that a report be presented to the 15 January 2014 detailing how this will be done.
3. That a report on the Outreach Programme be included on the agenda for the 15 January 2014 meeting.
4. That an update report on Carbon Management Efficiencies be included on the agenda for the 15 January 2014 meeting.

20 SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS

The Head of Finance – Children's and Specialist Services presented a report, which highlighted to the Schools Forum the latest publication by the DfE on its revised guidance on Schemes for Financing Schools.

It was reported that periodically the DfE directs LA's to amend their Schemes and on 23 March 2013 the LA was directed to make further revision to the Scheme. The most important revisions to the Scheme from the 1 April 2013 were as follows:-

- The new Scheme now applied to Pupil Referral Units;
- Only Schools Forum Members representing maintained schools should approve Scheme changes;
- The inclusion of a statement that top-up payments should be made monthly unless agreed otherwise; and
- Confirmation that funding to support schools in financial difficulty could only come from a de-delegated contingency for mainstream schools, or a central budget for special schools and PRU's.

The report also detailed the LA's proposed change to the Scheme, with the introduction of a requirement for all maintained schools to submit a medium term finance plan (MTFP) to the LA by the 31 May each year. It was noted that the LA was required to consult the Schools Forum and all maintained schools on this change. Subject to the views of the Forum, the LA was planning to consult schools in the autumn term. If agreed, the requirement to submit a MTFP would be introduced for the first time in the 2014/15 financial year, with the first submission from schools being due in by 31 May 2014.

The Schools Forum were advised that the schools would not be required to use the LA template, but to do so would be preferable.

RESOLVED

1. That the Maintained school representatives note the content of the report.
2. That Maintained school representatives approve, in advance of a consultation with all maintained schools, the Local Authority's proposal for requiring maintained schools to submit a Medium Term Finance Plan to the Local Authority by 31 May each year.

21 2013/14 SECTION 251 BENCHMARKING INFORMATION

Consideration was given to a report from the Head of Finance – Children's and Specialist Services, which brought to the Schools Forum's attention the latest s.251 benchmarking data published by the DfE in September 2013.

The report highlighted that all LA's were required to publish, prior to the start of the financial year, a statement showing their planned expenditure on Children's Services.

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A copy of the benchmarking data was circulated to members at the meeting.

The report presented highlighted a number of key issues to the Forum. Members were encouraged by the Chairman to visit the LA benchmarking website.

Some concern was expressed regarding the cost of Lincolnshire's funding per capita for school transport of £247.00 against the average figure for England of £86.00. The inflated cost for Lincolnshire was as a result of the rural nature of the county.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

22 MAINTAINED SCHOOL CARRY FORWARDS (2012/13)

A report was presented from the Head of Finance – Children's and Specialist Services, which provided the Schools Forum with information relating to Lincolnshire's Maintained schools' carry forwards at 31 March 2013.

It was reported that the underspendings carried forward has risen significantly. The overall levels of school carry forwards in maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools had risen by £5.318m from £14.432m in 2011/12 to £19.660m at the end of 2012/13.

It was highlighted that the Local Authority's carry forward policy was introduced in the 1 April 2004, which allowed maintained nursery, primary and special schools to carry forward for any purposes, up to 8% of their budget share, or £30k (whichever was greater), with Maintained secondary schools being able to carry forward 5% of their budget share. The report clearly identified that some schools had exceeded their carry forward limit. Schools had been reminded that they needed to comply with the policy and demonstrate how they planned to use their excess balances. The LA would continue to keep the carry forward policy under review.

The Forum were advised that the total number of schools in deficit had decreased by 15, from 19 to 4. Full details were shown on page 41 of the report presented.

The Forum was advised further that the LA believed that schools should spend their annual budgets on the pupils that were in the school in that year. It was highlighted however, that it was important that schools retained a reasonable level of reserves to help smooth out modest fluctuations in income and expenditure from year to year, which would help ensure better use of resources by avoiding redundancies where possible. Changes in national and local funding arrangements had created uncertainty and schools had responded in recent years by increasing their level of reserves.

In conclusion, the Forum were reassured that the Finance Team would continue to provide advice and guidance to Maintained schools, monitor their financial position and have regular meetings with those schools who had significant overspendings.

The Head of Finance - Children's and Specialist Services highlighted to the Forum that Maintained schools' Balances at 31.03.2013 would have included unspent funds from the £7m DSG allocation to all schools in the autumn of 2012.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:-

- That very few schools had deficit budgets;
- Reassurance was given that sufficient monitoring procedures were in place to monitor schools; and
- Confirmation was given that there was no pattern emerging within each sector as to why there was an increase in underspends.

RESOLVED

That the report presented be noted.

23 ACADEMIES UPDATE

The Forum gave consideration to a report from the Head of Property and Technology Management, which provided information on the latest number of pupils in academies.

The current position as at 1 September 2013 of pupil figures were detailed on page 50/51 of the report presented. Overall out of the 359 schools (101,336 FTE), 252 (44,592 FTE) were maintained and 107 (56,744 FTE) were now academies.

The projected six month status of all 360 Lincolnshire Schools (101,090 FTE), 249 would be Maintained (43983 FTE) and 111 would be academies (57,108 FTE).

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

24 SCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS FINANCE REGULATIONS 2013 AND
ADDITIONAL GRANT CONDITIONS FOR THE DEDICATED SCHOOLS
GRANT - DFE CONSULTATION

Consideration was given to a report from the Head of Finance – Children's and Specialist Services, which advised the Forum that on 2 August 2013, the DfE had published a consultation on the School and Early Years Finance Regulations for 2013 and additional grant conditions for the Dedicated Schools Grant.

The report highlighted that the proposed changes would give effect to the changes to the funding system that the government intended to introduce in 2014/15. A summary of the proposed changes were appended to the report presented.

RESOLVED

That the report presented be noted.

25 SCHOOLS FINANCIAL VALUE STANDARD

The Head of Finance Children's and Specialist Services presented a report, which provided the Forum with an update on the Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS).

It was highlighted that Maintained schools were required to complete the SFVS once a year. The SFVS comprised of 23 questions that governors should formally discuss with school staff and then a declaration should be signed by the Chair of Governors before being sent to the LA each year. It was highlighted further that the SFVS was not externally assessed.

The 2012/13 position pertaining to SFVS's was that only two schools had failed to comply. The reasons for non-compliance were detailed in the report.

It was highlighted that the SFVS did not apply to academies, although they were free to use it. Academies were required to comply with the Academies Handbook.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

26 INFORMATION PACK

11A Draft Minutes from the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership meeting held on 7 August 2013.

The Executive Director of Children's Services highlighted that work was on going concerning the Team Around the Child audit to ensure that current processes were robust enough.

11B Draft Minutes from the Strategy review Board held on 11 September 2013

The Forum was advised that work was on-going regarding re-engaging schools with the Open Hive VLE in order to raise its profile. It was noted that the date for the re launch was yet to be agreed, and that this date would be confirmed to Forum before the next meeting. The Forum agreed that a report on Open Hive should be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

11C Outreach Review (to Follow)

As no report was received in relation to the Outreach Review, the Forum requested that a report should be presented to the next meeting of the Forum on 15 January 2014.

11D Energy Update

The Forum requested that an update report should be received at the next meeting in 15 January 2014.

11E List of Acronyms

No comments.

11F School's Forum Work Plan

RESOLVED

That the work plan be agreed subject to the inclusion of items highlighted at minute numbers 19(2) (3) (4) and 26 (11B).

The meeting closed at 4.15 am

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REGULATORY AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORT

NAME OF COMMITTEE:	Schools Forum
DATE OF MEETING:	15 January 2014
SUBJECT:	School Funding Arrangements 2014/15
REPORT BY:	Tony Warnock Head of Finance – Children's & Specialist Services
NAME OF CONTACT OFFICER:	Tony Warnock
CONTACT OFFICER TEL NO:	01522 553250
CONTACT OFFICER EMAIL ADDRESS:	tony.warnock@lincolnshire.gov.uk
IS THE REPORT EXEMPT?	No
IS REPORT CONFIDENTIAL?	No

SUMMARY

The purposes of this report are to:

1. brief the Schools Forum on school funding arrangements for 2014/15; and
2. seek support for the Local Authority's (LA) proposals relating to a number of centrally held budgets.

DISCUSSION

Background

As reported to the Schools Forum at the meetings held on 26th June 2013 and 9th October 2013, following the introduction of the radical funding reforms in April 2013, the DfE plans to introduce a number of refinements to school funding arrangements in 2014/15.

The DfE's key changes for 2014/15

Members of the Schools Forum will recall that on 5th June 2013, the Minister of State for Schools indicated that a number of improvements to the initial arrangements were necessary. He re-iterated the intention to move to a national funding formula; stressed the need to ensure that more money is targeted to pupils, and; acknowledged the need for LAs to be able to support small schools in rural areas. The key changes announced by the Minister included:

- LAs will be able to introduce a sparsity factor to target funds to avoid necessary small schools becoming unviable.
- LAs will have greater flexibility to target the right level of lump sum to primary and secondary schools.
- LAs will be required to allocate a minimum of 80% of their delegated Schools block funding on the basis of pupil characteristics and will have to ensure that a minimum amount is funded for each pupil (£2,000 for primary, and £3,000 for KS3 and KS4).
- LAs will provide notional SEN budgets to their schools on the basis that the school will meet the first £6,000 of additional support required by a pupil with SEN.
- The prior attainment factor will be amended so that instead of pupils qualifying if they fail to achieve level 4 or higher in English *and* maths, funding will be provided if they fail to achieve a level 4 or higher in English *or* maths.

The LA's process

In response to the Minister's announcement, the LA adopted a similar approach to the one used to deal with the 2013/14 reforms. Members of the Schools Forum will recall that the LA launched a consultation with all schools on 5th September 2013. The feedback from schools was considered by a working group of the Schools Forum on 24th September 2013 and the results of that activity were then considered by the Schools Forum on 9th October 2013. Once again, there was significant support for the LA's proposal throughout this process.

Since the meeting of the Schools Forum on 9th October 2013, the LA has:

- Consulted with the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee (18th October 2013). The Committee supported the LA's proposals.
- Obtained formal approval for the proposals from the LA's Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, Cllr Mrs Bradwell (30th October 2013).
- Completed and submitted the DfE's proforma outlining the LA's proposals for the funding of mainstream schools from April 2014 (31st October 2013).
- Requested DfE approval for the planned one-off allocation from the 2012/13 DSG underspend to be excluded from future calculations of the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG).
- Submitted a return to the DfE, outlining the number of planned places required for LA Special Schools and Alternative Provision for 2014/15 (23rd December 2013).
- Reviewed the DfE's 18th December 2013 announcement on DSG block allocations for 2014/15.
- Reviewed and proposed provisional DSG centrally held budgets for 2014/15, as set out in this report.

A significant amount of further work remains to be undertaken up to 31st March 2014 before school budgets can be published.

DfE's guidance

The guidance published by the DfE on 18th December 2013 can be found at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/financialmanagement/schoolsrevenuefunding/a00230728/schools-rev-fund-2014-2015>

It confirms that:

- The DSG remains a ring-fenced grant that can only be used in accordance with DfE Regulations.
- The DfE's DSG allocations to LAs will continue to be based on the current 'spend plus' methodology for 2014/15.
- The DSG will continue to be split between the Schools block, the Early Years block and the Higher Needs block.
- The Schools block will continue to be based on the preceding October census, but an uplift will be made to ensure that no LA loses out as a result of a child's deferred entry to reception.
- The Early Years block for 2014/15 uses the January 2013 census, but will be updated in 2014/15 for the January 2014 census (5/12ths) and for the January 2015 census (7/12ths).
- The Higher Needs block allocation for 2014/15 is provisional and could be subject to adjustment as a result of submissions made by LAs on 23rd December 2013 and a review of those figures by the DfE.
- Each LA's hospital schools will continue to be funded at the current rate. This follows the DfE's top slicing of the DSG in 2013/14 to fund this.
- The DSG will continue to include funding for:
 - higher needs provision, including post-16 provision up to the age of 25.
 - monitoring and quality assuring NQT induction (this was delegated to all schools using pupil numbers).
 - the early education of 2 year olds from lower income households.
- The underlying schools budget per pupil will be kept 'cash flat' for 2014/15.
- The MFG will continue to apply and will be set at minus 1.5% per pupil. The DfE's regulations set out those formula factors that are automatically excluded from the MFG calculation.
- A total of £760m additional funding will be provided to enable LAs to secure early learning places for two year olds from lower income households. This entitlement was initially targeted at children from the 20% most deprived areas from September 2013 and will be extended to include the 40% most deprived areas from September 2014.
- LAs will no longer be required to administer the carbon reduction scheme on behalf of schools and so LAs' DSG allocations have been reduced by £50.5m to ensure that there is no loss of revenue to the Exchequer.
- The DfE will continue to purchase a number of licences on schools' behalf, then recharge LAs central DSG budgets for those costs.
- LAs will need to continue to make provision for pre and post-opening start-up costs associated with establishing new academies and free schools, to put them on a sound financial footing.
- LAs will continue to make direct payments to academies for top-ups for Higher Needs pupils, the early years single funding formula, excluded pupils and the growth fund.
- The LA's Chief Finance Officer will continue to be required to confirm deployment of the DSG in support of the Schools Budget, via the s.251 outturn statement.

Also, the DfE announced:

- The 2014/15 Education Support Grant (ESG), which covers the additional responsibilities that academies acquired upon conversion, will be set for LAs at £113.17 per pupil for mainstream schools, and £424.38 and £480.98 per place for PRUs and special schools respectively. The LA will continue to receive £15 per pupil for all county pupils, to cover its retained duties. The minimum per pupil rate for mainstream academies is £140, and minimum per place rates for PRUs and special academies will be £525 and £595 respectively.
- The provision of an additional £2.35bn capital funding up to 2017, to address the government's overriding priority, i.e. to provide the extra places needed for the growing population. This is on top of the £800m previously announced for 2014/15. The government also confirmed that £150m of capital funding would be provided to improve school kitchen and dining facilities, in order to offer every infant pupil a free nutritious school meal at lunchtime.

The DfE recently announced that 2014/15 funding for the pupil premium would be :

- £1,300 per primary pupil who is currently eligible for free school meals (FSM) or has been eligible for FSM in the past 6 years (FSM 'Ever 6').
- £935 for secondary FSM 'Ever 6' pupils.
- £1,900 for looked-after children. Eligibility criteria is being extended to include those pupils who have been in care for one day or more.
- £1,900 for eligible pupils who have been registered on the school census as having been adopted from care or leaving care under a special guardianship or residence order.
- £300 for the service premium. This will continue to be extended so that in 2014 to 2015, any pupil in reception to year 11 who has been flagged as a service child since 2011 will continue to receive the premium ('Ever 4' measure).

Further details are available at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/financialmanagement/schoolsrevenuefunding/a00218077/funding-settlement-2013-14>

The Government still intends to introduce a national funding formula during the next spending review period, to reduce the funding differences between similar schools in different areas. However, officers understand that the planned consultation has been put back to the spring of 2014.

2014/15 DSG allocations

The DSG allocations announced by the DfE on 18th December 2013 are set out below.

Table 1: Lincolnshire's 2014/15 DSG block allocations

Block	Lincs £m	Lincs £ per pupil	England £ per pupil
Schools Block	392.009	4,329.10	4,550.54
Early Years block	23.220	3,974.07	4,282.41
High Needs	60.906	n/a	n/a
Additions	7.874	n/a	n/a
Total	484.009	n/a	n/a

As the underlying funding formula used by the DfE to allocate the DSG to LAs has not changed, the differences between Lincolnshire's figures and the England averages are not unexpected.

Table 2: Analysis of the 'Additions'

Item	Amount £m	England total £m
Funding for early education for 2 year olds from lower income households (now the lowest 40%)	8.546	754.991
Ending of LA responsibility for the Carbon reduction commitment	(0.810)	(50.548)
Induction for Newly Qualified teachers	0.138	10.200
Cash floor protection for LAs with falling rolls	-	0.165
Sub total	7.874	714.808

School Budgets 2014/15

The LA's proposals for changes to the 2014/15 school funding formula that were supported by schools, the Schools Forum and others last autumn were reflected in the LA's proforma submitted to the DfE on 31st October 2013. The revised funding formula will be used to determine school budget shares for the 2014/15 financial year. Members of the Schools Forum will recall that the changes to the 2014/15 formula are therefore:

- An increase in the secondary school block allocation to £0.175m, with that being funded from the secondary sector's age weighted pupil unit value. This marks a partial reversal of the change made for 2013/14. The MFG will continue to offer protection to schools.
- The introduction of a sparsity factor for secondary schools. This will be set at a rate of £0.1m per school and will operate without tapering. This will be funded from the age weighted pupil unit value in the secondary sector. Like the proposed increase in the lump sum factor above, this will partially offset the loss in funding suffered by some small secondary schools in 2013/14. Unfortunately, not all small secondary schools will benefit, due to the DfE's qualifying criteria (i.e. a school must have < 600 pupils on roll and an average sparsity distance of > 3 miles).
- To maintain the current level of low cost, high incidence SEN funding in the secondary sector. Although more pupils will qualify for funding due to the DfE's amendment to the qualifying criteria (i.e. those that do not attain the expected level at Key Stage 2 in English or Maths) the impact upon individual secondary schools should be very modest indeed.
- To introduce a factor for Looked After Children. Funding released from the unwinding of transitional protection arrangements will be used to finance this additional cost, so there should be no negative impact upon schools' existing budgets. The rate will be set at £600 and will be supplemented by the Looked After Children premium.

At the time of writing this report, work is underway to check the budget allocations to individual schools and to identify and address any anomalies that might arise, particularly with respect to the MFG calculations.

A cap on the gains in funding for individual schools should not be necessary in 2014/15. Although a 5% cap had to be applied in 2013/14 for affordability purposes, the unwinding of protection through the MFG should allow schools that were due to gain under the 2013/14 school funding reforms to do so in full in 2014/15.

Central budgets 2014/15

Due to the unprecedented level of change in school funding in recent times, it is important that the LA takes a prudent approach to the setting of central budgets. This is necessary because:

- From 2013/14, the LA was able to retain far fewer budgets and so there are likely to be smaller underspendings going forward and therefore less capacity to respond to any significant emerging issues.
- Some budgets are relatively new (e.g. the budgets for 2 year old funding where demand is uncertain; and those for post-16 students with higher needs). Others are demand led (e.g. early years) and some are difficult to estimate and control (e.g. SEN related budgets).
- The LA's non-DSG funding is expected to tighten considerably in 2015/16 and there will be no scope for the LA to supplement the DSG in the way that it has done previously.
- Any overspending arising on the DSG would need Schools Forum's support to have that written off in the following year.

The £7.874m additions to the DSG outlined in Table 2 above have been assigned to the relevant budgets, to ensure that the LA can fulfil its additional responsibilities. With respect to its other central budgets, the LA has conducted its annual, detailed review of those and the following table summarises for information the *most significant* changes to the 2013/14 budgets.

Table 3: Main changes proposed to central DSG budgets

Budget	Proposed change to the current budget Increase / (decrease) £	2014/15 Proposed budget £	Explanation
Broadband	(£0.726m)	£1.778m	The Schools Forum will recall that this budget was reduced following the introduction of the new KCom contract in October 2012. In April 2013, the LA delegated funding for filtering, firewalls, etc, to all schools, but the LA had to continue to pay a one-off sum for the previous contract with Mouchel up to 31 August 2013. That commitment has now ended and this explains the reduction in budget requirement for next year.
Stamford Endowed schools	(£0.343m)	£0.930m	As previously reported, the contract provides for a phased reduction in the number of places purchased.
Early Years	£0.750m	£16.298m	Historically, there has been steady growth in expenditure of c.5% p.a.. However, there has been a sharp increase in expenditure this year in this demand led budget. It is difficult to forecast the future budget requirement with accuracy. That is dependent upon parents' take-up of the fifteen hours per week entitlement and that may change as the government extends provision to the 40% most deprived 2 year olds. This should not create an unfunded additional cost to the DSG however, because as indicated in Table 1 above, LCC receives additional DSG funding for the early years places based on the January census each year.

The Schools Forum regulations, which were laid before Parliament on 7th September 2012, require the LA to propose, and the Schools Forum to decide, the budgets listed in the table below. Where agreement cannot be reached, the DfE will adjudicate. All three of the budgets referred to in Table 3 above, are referenced again in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Budgets requiring Schools Forum decisions

Budget	Key points	Proposed budget 2014/15 £
	<i>Under DfE regulations, the following budgets can be set at any monetary value.</i>	
Funding for significant pre-16 growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This budget is essential for the LA to fulfil its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for pupils. • There has been major pressure on reception places for the last three years and this looks set to continue. • Funding is allocated in accordance with the LA's policy. This is when, as part of its strategic planning of places, the LA needs to ask a school to take in additional pupils above its planned admission number (PAN) temporarily or permanently. The policy is attached at Appendix 1, together with the commitments made in the 2013/14 financial year. • It will continue to be the case that funding could be allocated to maintained schools or academies. • The number of new school places required and their location is uncertain and difficult to predict. The circumstances and hence the costs will vary from school to school. It is therefore important that a prudent budget is set. • Some funding for new schools was set aside from the 2012/13 DSG underspend, as agreed with the Schools Forum in October 2013. Nevertheless, based on current commitments and expected growth next year, which is difficult to predict, it is estimated that a prudent budget of £1.5m is again required, i.e. the same sum as budgeted for in 2013/14. 	£1.500m
Places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This matter was referred to in Table 3. • The LA has a contractual agreement to purchase these places in Stamford. • The contract provides for a phased reduction over time in the number of places purchased. • The budget requirement is therefore due to decline by £0.343m next year and will continue to decline thereafter. • Without this budget, the LA would be unable to meet its contractual liabilities and it would remain the LA's responsibility to make education provision for these young people. 	£0.930m
Early Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed change in this budget for next year is explained in Table 3 above. • In addition, it is proposed that other budgets within the Early Years block (i.e. nursery class and nursery school funding) remain unchanged from the 2013/14 budgeted level. 	£16.298m

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As indicated in Table 2 above, the additional funding provided by the government next year for extending early education for 2 year olds to lower income households (now the lowest 40%) will be set aside for that purpose. 	
	<i>For the following items, LAs can propose only up to the value committed in 2012/13</i>	
Broadband	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is explained in table 3 above. 	£1.778m
Admissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LA has a statutory duty to operate the admissions arrangements in county schools. Without this budget, the LA would be unable to fulfil its statutory duties. The budget proposed for next year is the same as that set for 2013/14. 	£0.449m
Servicing of the Schools Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historically, the cost has been very modest. Without this budget, the Schools Forum would find it difficult to operate effectively. It is proposed that the same budget for 2013/14 is set for 2014/15. 	£0.020m
Carbon reduction commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2013/14 budget requirement of £0.630m will not be required in 2014/15 in light of the government's recent decision to remove the requirement for LAs to administer the carbon reduction scheme on behalf of schools. The LA's 2014/15 DSG has been reduced by £0.810m, as indicated in Table 2 above. The removal of greater sum than the LA budgeted for in 2013/14 appears to be because the government planned to increase the carbon charge from £12 to £16 per tonne next year. Whilst there is therefore no longer a need to retain a central budget for this purpose, the LA still has a £0.050m commitment in respect of smart metering. 	£0.050m
Central expenditure from revenue (CERA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This funds the costs of the capital investment made by the LA in schools over previous years, and the PFI contractual commitments for the seven schools built under PFI a decade ago. Without this budget, the LA would be unable to finance the on-going costs of these historic, contractual commitments. The proposed budget is therefore very similar to 2013/14 (£5.146m). 	£5.126m
Schools centrally funded termination of employment costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bulk of the 2012/13 budget had to be delegated to all schools from 2013/14, but a commitment remained for the Redeployment officer who continues to help schools avoid redundancy costs by redeploying staff in other schools wherever possible. Without this funding, this post could not be retained and schools would probably pick-up significantly greater costs from redundancies than would otherwise be the case. 	£0.045m

The budgets proposed above are prudent and have been determined following a detailed review. Most centrally held DSG budgets remain stable, but some are falling due to decisions made previously by the LA.

Some minor refinements to these budgets may be necessary in light of officers' on-going work, but material changes are not expected. In accordance with established practice, the LA will report to Schools Forum in April 2014 the final budgets for 2014/15, as set out in the s.251 budget statement which has to be published by 31 March 2014. Any material changes from the figures reported here will be communicated to the Schools Forum at that time.

Members from the relevant sections of the Schools Forum agreed the de-delegation of a number of budgets at its meeting on 9th October 2013. At the time of drafting this report, the precise sums are still being determined but the expectation is that the figures will be a little lower than 2013/14 levels, to reflect the modest increase in the number of academy conversions over the last year.

Officers are concerned about the DfE's plans to review the Higher Needs block following LAs' submissions on 23rd December 2013 of their proposals for the purchase of places in special schools, alternative provision, etc, next year. The place review will take place in January and February 2014, with final figures being published in March. This creates uncertainty around a very significant element (i.e. £60.9m) of the DSG. Furthermore, as the final funding for Higher Needs block will not be confirmed until March 2014, it is virtually impossible for the LA to finalise all other aspects of the DSG. For example, had the total DSG been known at this time, it would have been possible for the LA to determine whether any uncommitted funds were available to be transferred to the Schools block and in to individual school budgets. That is not possible now. This situation is different to last year when the Higher Needs block had been published by the DfE prior to Christmas, and there was no expectation of any subsequent changes. In light of the current situation, officers will await confirmation from the DfE of the final Higher Needs block for 2014/15 and will report to Schools Forum in April 2014 if any major concerns arise. Whilst no major concerns are expected, the uncertainty over this, and the indeed the requirement to recalculate the Early Years block under the 2013/14 funding reforms, means that there is now less certainty at this time of the year regarding the DSG funding than there used to be under the previous system. Should there be any uncommitted funds within the Higher Needs block once details are finalised in March, they will be set aside and will appear as an underspend at the end of the financial year. The use of those funds will, of course, then be considered by the Schools Forum in the October following.

The financial outlook for schools, the LA and Children's Services

As reported previously, there may be an underspending on the DSG in 2013/14, but the sum is expected to be much more modest than underspendings in recent years. The final position will be reported to the Schools Forum in October 2014, together with proposals for use of any uncommitted funds.

2014/15 is the last of the four years covered by the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). During this four year period, the DSG has remained 'cash flat', albeit additional funding has been provided to meet demographic growth, and the pupil premium will have added £2.5bn to school funding nationally by the end of next year.

In June 2013, the Chancellor signalled the government's intention to continue to protect school funding in 2015/16. The impact of a national fair funding formula upon Lincolnshire schools is impossible to determine in advance of the government publishing its consultation document. However, as one of the lowest funded LAs, it might be reasonable to assume that the county's share of the national budget might increase. However, that is not guaranteed and regardless of that, it is highly likely that significant protection arrangements will be introduced to soften the impact of LAs' initial losses.

By contrast, the Chancellor's announcement in June 2013 also signalled the government's intention to hit LA funding harder than other areas of the public sector once again. The exact position is not yet clear, but the indications are that the LA's non-DSG budgets could be reduced by over 10% in 2015/16, with further cuts to follow in subsequent years. How Children's Services (and, indirectly, schools) will be affected by this will be determined over the course of the next twelve months and whilst the Schools Forum's role is centred on the DSG, it will no doubt be very interested to understand the impact this will have upon schools and how that might be mitigated.

As a result of the 2010 CSR, the LA has already had to find total savings of £125m over the four year period. Children's Services had to find savings of £11.379m in 2011/12, £11.138m in 2012/13 and £5.113m in 2013/14. These savings have / will be delivered in full and on time. For 2014/15, the Directorate is required to deliver further savings of £2.636m against its non-DSG budget of c.£102m, and that is in a climate of increasing financial and non-financial pressures relating to children's social care. Finding further significant savings from 2015/16 will be extremely difficult, not least as the current £102m non-DSG budget has as two of its main components: home to school / college transport (£25m) and children's social care (£45m).

Next steps

As indicated above, officers will await DfE confirmation of the Higher Needs block before finalising the budgets funded by it.

Checks will be made against the DfE's new Schools Finance Regulations published in December 2013, to ensure full compliance.

The revised proforma for mainstream school budgets is due to be sent to the EFA on 21st January 2014. It will reflect the proposals reported to and supported by the Schools Forum on 9th October 2013.

The Schools Finance Team has already published dates for briefing sessions for maintained schools and academies to attend. This support was introduced in 2013, ahead of the introduction of the 2013/14 radical reforms. The sessions were well received and so will be repeated, to enable schools to understand the changes planned for 2014/15.

Under new DfE regulations, the LA is required to publish mainstream schools budgets (excluding sixth form funding) by the 28th February 2014. The budgets for special schools, PRUs and nursery provision must be published by 31 March 2014. The LA will however endeavour to publish all budgets earlier than the dates stipulated.

The Mouchel Schools Finance Team will continue to run the popular budget setting courses for schools in March 2014.

The LA will keep the new formula under review and will bring forward to Schools Forum any proposals for modifying the formula.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Schools Forum is asked to:

- a. Note the content of the report.
- b. Support the LA's proposals for the setting of the central budgets shown in Table 4 above.

BACKGROUND PAPERS			
The following reports were relied upon in the writing of this report.			
PAPER TYPE	TITLE	DATE	ACCESSIBILITY
Report	School Funding Reform: Findings from the Review of 2013/14 & Arrangements and changes for 2014/15	26 th June 2013	County Offices, Newland, Lincoln
Report	School Funding Reform: Findings from the Review of 2013/14 & Arrangements and changes for 2014/15	9 th October 2013	County Offices, Newland, Lincoln
DfE correspondence	School Revenue Funding Settlement 2014 to 2015	18 th December 2013	http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/financialmanagement/schoolsrevenuefunding/a00230728/schools-rev-fund-2014-2015

APPENDICES
Appendix 1 – LA policy on Growth fund and 2013/14 commitments

LA policy on Growth fund and 2013/14 commitments

Lincolnshire County Council Policy on funding arrangements for primary school reorganisations

Purpose

This policy has been developed to provide a formalised approach to the funding of primary school reorganisations to support the Local Authority's (LA) statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for the children of Lincolnshire. It seeks to address situations when, as part of its strategic planning of school places, the LA asks a school to take in additional pupils above the planned admission number (PAN) temporarily, or expand permanently.

Objective

The primary objective of the policy is to ensure that schools that are subject to a reorganisation receive funding to meet all reasonable additional costs.

Principles

The following principles underpin the policy:

- Fairness - the funding provided aims to meet all reasonable additional costs.
- Equity - all schools should be treated in a similar way.
- Transparency - all schools should be able to see and understand the policy and the allocations made to schools by the LA.
- Simplicity - the policy and underlying formula should be easily understood.
- Efficiency - resources should be used in a way that secures good value for money.

Scope

This policy is designed to deal with primary school reorganisations that are required by the LA in order to fulfil its strategic and statutory responsibilities. The policy aims to provide an appropriate level of funding to those schools that the LA wishes to expand permanently or temporarily (e.g. for perhaps for one year only, by taking additional pupils above their PAN as a 'bulge' year).

The policy does not apply in instances where schools simply have the opportunity to offer more places above their PAN. It must be commissioned and supported by the LA.

The policy applies to both LA maintained schools and academy schools.

This policy does not cover merged schools, split site factors or newly created schools.

Types of School Re-Organisations

- Permanent PAN expansions (phased)
A school is asked by the LA to have a permanent PAN change to ensure a sufficiency of school places exists. The phased PAN will impact only on the Reception intakes through a 7 year reorganisation.
- Temporary PAN expansions (over-offer on existing PAN for one year group)
A school is asked by the LA to have a temporary PAN change for only 1 year (over-offer – PAN stays as it is) to ensure a sufficiency of school places exist for a particular bulge year. This temporary PAN change will likely only affect the current year Reception intake, although it may be necessary on occasion to increase another year group to cope with mid-year admission pressures.

- Permanent PAN expansions (through all the school's year groups)

A school is asked by the LA to have a permanent PAN change to ensure a sufficiency of school places exists. The pressure on school places may exist across all year groups, therefore the PAN change will affect all the schools year groups.

Proposed approach to funding

It is proposed that where the LA requests a school to reorganise, either by increasing its PAN permanently, or over-offering places above its PAN temporarily, the LA will provide awpu funding for the actual number of children taken above the PAN up to a limit specified by the LA. The LA believes this will provide sufficient funding in the majority of cases to meet all reasonable additional costs.

However, there may be exceptional circumstances where this funding does not meet all reasonable additional costs. It is therefore proposed that schools can apply to the LA for further funding. However, to ensure that such requests are treated in a fair and consistent manner following the principles outlined in this policy, further information is provided below to indicate how such requests will be considered.

A) Costs covered by the 7/12th awpu funding

The LA would expect the following costs to be covered by the 7/12th awpu funding provided:

- **Staffing**
Leadership; Teachers (including PPA); Teaching Assistants, Midday Supervisory Assistants; Cleaners; Caretakers; Administration; Bursar / School Business Manager and Sickness Premium.
- **Non-Staffing**
Electricity; Gas; Rates; Water; Cleaning Materials; Refuse Collection and Grounds Maintenance.

B) Costs that may not be covered by the 7/12 awpu funding

The circumstances at a school and the reorganisation required may be such that the additional 7/12th awpu does not cover all reasonable additional costs. The LA will therefore consider requests for additional funding. However, to ensure transparency, consistency and fairness, the following guidelines should be followed.

Staffing costs

There may be instances where the particular circumstances at a school drive up staffing costs. Schools will be required to complete the attached return to justify why additional funding is required. The relevant section lists the types of additional costs that might be incurred. For each one, it sets out the LA's assumptions regarding the staffing grades that the awpu currently funds. To be successful in claiming additional funding, the school will need to *explain* and *evidence* why additional costs have or will be incurred.

It is assumed that each member of staff is a member of the relevant pension scheme; staff grades have been assigned using GLEA grades and job descriptions; teaching & non-teaching staff have been assigned at average salary levels for modelling purposes; staff support group salaries have been assigned in the middle of the grade, and; equated pay has been applied to support staff. Cover arrangements for planning, preparation and assessment time will be incorporated into the overall teacher costs. The provision of extra funding will also be considered in exceptional circumstances where there is difficulty in recruiting suitably experienced staff.

Attached at Appendix 2 is a template that enables schools to assess the additional staffing costs associated with the school reorganisation. To aid school planning, these will be agreed in principle by the LA following an initial review. However, this will be finalised upon the actual pupil numbers being known (October pupil census) and on the principle that the teacher & teaching assistant costs will be paid at the actual cost, if that is lower than the *modelled* average.

Where the LA has offered to provide 7/12ths of the awpu funding from September for an expected increase in number on roll, then it may in exceptional circumstances underwrite the appointment of an additional teacher, if there is genuine doubt as to whether the increase in number in roll will actually materialise. This should provide re-assurance to the school, ahead of the advertising and appointment of an additional teacher.

Schools and academies should be mindful of the long term requirements of planning for a permanent or temporary increase in pupil numbers. There is no guarantee that a permanent or temporary increase will be sustained over a period of 7 years or that a phased intake will be required year on year. The LA will review all financial support annually and expect schools and academies to organise appropriately to ensure that best use is made of all available resources within Infant Class Size regulations and what is considered to be reasonable e.g. a 1FE expansion may in four years' time only require an additional 0.5FE intake for the following three years if there is no longer a need for all of those places to remain available. As such the LA would expect the organisation of classes to reflect this rather than financial support being provided by the LA to fund empty places unnecessarily.

Other property related costs

The LA recognise that schools with newly created capacity (i.e. an additional classroom) will incur additional running costs as a result, which should be incorporated into the Appendix 2 analysis to identify whether the 7/12th awpu funding covers the additional costs of the reorganisation.

Where significant capital investment is required by the LA and several classrooms are to be built with the intention of the school filling those classrooms over several years, careful consideration needs to be given to whether additional funding is necessary to cover the additional utility and other costs associated with the larger premises. To ensure that the LA funds all reasonable additional costs from the reorganisation, it is important to recognise instances where, for a period of time, a large part of an expanded school may not be occupied and the school will not therefore draw in awpu funding to meet the premises costs of a larger school. Having said that, the LA recognises that schools are not required to utilise all of their additional buildings until such time as pupil numbers increase, but it is nevertheless important for the LA to at least consider the financial implications. The LA wishes to do so using a relatively simple system that is easy to understand, predict and administer. Attached at Appendix 2 is a template which schools can use to assess for each financial year whether the additional utility and other costs which arise from a major building programme are covered by the corresponding increase in awpu funding generated by the admission of the additional pupils.

Classroom Fixture & Fitting costs

In certain instances, the LA will support the school by providing temporary classrooms, or converting or extending accommodation for an additional permanent classroom. Additional equipment is likely to be required. When this criteria is met and the classroom is being utilised, the LA will provide an additional £9,525 to create a suitable teaching & learning environment. This sum will fund the items included in Appendix 1 for a typical classroom environment. This includes: a whiteboard and projector for the new classroom; a laptop for the teacher; 2 computers for pupils to use, and; tables & chairs. Depending on the school's circumstance, the funding may be provided for more than one year, e.g. where a permanent PAN change has been agreed between the LA and the school, and additional classrooms are required. The LA believes this approach to the funding of equipment is reasonably generous. It recognises that schools have to equip classrooms in advance of their use and understands the need to make funds available to schools. However, it also acknowledges that IT equipment typically has a useful life of approximately 4 years and those costs can be spread over that period through leasing arrangements. Such costs would ordinarily be funded by the awpu attracted by new pupils.

The fixture & fittings funding for those schools meeting this policy requirement will be allocated in the summer term.

One-off items of expenditure

The LA will also consider funding exceptional one-off costs to allow the school to continue working effectively and to avoid operational difficulties created by the change in the PAN, e.g. the integration of CCTV, alarms or servers where additional accommodation has been built for the extra children. Removal costs will also be considered where a temporary classroom(s) has been provided as an interim measure for school building expansions.

Revenue based costs are considered in this policy; however anticipated capital costs to the school from a reorganisation should be discussed with the assigned LCC Project Manager, to clarify precisely what capital items will and won't be funded.

Impact of this policy upon other local schools

The LA recognises that whilst needing to facilitate change to fulfil its strategic responsibilities for provision of school places, this policy should not cause undue turbulence in other schools. The LA will be mindful of this in reaching decisions with schools and will set limits above which no extra funding will be provided. Over time, there may be an impact upon other local schools, but the LA would expect any reduction in pupils to be moderate and gradual, and a matter that can be dealt with through good financial planning and by taking advantage of natural wastage, etc, to avoid redundancy costs. No compensation will therefore be paid to those schools.

Funding source

The funding delivered through application of this policy will continue to be made available from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The Education Funding Agency (EFA) allows LAs to support school reorganisations through the Growth Fund, which is held within the Schools block of the DSG. The LA is required to report to the Schools Forum each January on how this has been allocated.

Funding for the *actual* increase in numbers up to the LA planned growth will be allocated following the autumn census. The Finance team will have provisional numbers to enable payments to be made in December. In exceptional circumstances a funding shortfall gap may materialise in a given year of the reorganisation (demonstrated through the school completing Appendix 2), which will also be allocated in the autumn term. For permanent PAN increases, the LA and school will review the proforma in the autumn term each year, to recognise any changes in circumstances and to reflect actual teacher and teaching assistant costs.

Following the completion of the modelled proforma, a school involved in a permanent PAN change may incur a net financial loss (following the deduction of the awpu) over the course of the reorganisation, i.e. the periodic changes in staffing and property related costs, may not equate to the increase in funding via awpu. The LA will fund the final net loss position. The profile of this payment will be agreed directly with the school.

Temporary one year PAN changes will be funded in full in the autumn term where a funding shortfall has materialised.

The proforma is to aid schools financial planning over this transition period to ensure they become a sustainable entity following the reorganisation.

Lagged academy funding

Academy schools funding period covers September to August using the prior year's autumn census data. The academy school's funding is lagged by a further 5 months compared to a LA maintained school. Following agreement with the EFA, from 2014/15 the LA will support the academy school in this lagged funding period by allocation 5/12th awpu funding for the actual increase in the autumn census numbers in line with the LAs planned growth arrangements. This allocation will be recovered from EFA to ensure the LA is not financially disadvantaged through this lagged funding approach. This funding will be allocated in the summer term.

Policy date

This policy was approved by Children's Services Directorate Management Team on 21 May 2012.

Review

This policy will be reviewed by Children's Services Financial Strategy Team on an annual basis.

Date: 6 November 2013

School Growth Fund - 2013/14 commitments

2012/13 Start of Reorganisation	Funding
Boston West	£28,182
Boston Hawthorne Tree	£33,257
Spalding Primary School	£73,825
Cranwell	£89,864
Market Rasen	£45,541
Pinchbeck East	£55,421
Witham St Hugh's	£52,947
Louth St Michaels	£72,410
Grantham Huntingtower	£15,601
Sutton Bridge Westmere	£18,425
Lincoln Bishop King	£48,716
Kirton Primary School	£37,707
Spalding St Paul's	£16,718
Horncastle Primary	£7,320
	<hr/>
	£595,934
 2013/14 Start of Reorganisation	
Boston Staniland	£34,741
Lincoln St Faith & St Martin Junior School	£18,425
Swineshead St Mary's	£54,649
Market Deeping Community Primary	£48,861
Grantham Isaac Newton	£20,766
Skegness Infant Academy	£24,358
Morton CE Primary School	£46,344
Stamford St Augustines	£15,458
Scampton Pollypatt	£42,157
Malcolm Sargent	£9,525
The Deepings	£171,016
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	£486,300
 2013/14 New School - Lincoln Carlton Academy	
Start-up Grant	£150,879
Diseconomies of Scale Funding (Free School Approach)	£46,958
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	£197,837
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	£1,280,071

Please note: The potential gaps in funding for certain school reorganisations are in the process of being agreed.

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REGULATORY AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORT

NAME OF COMMITTEE:	Schools Forum
DATE OF MEETING:	15 January 2014
SUBJECT:	The School and Early Years Finance Regulations for 2014/15
REPORT BY:	Tony Warnock Head of Finance (Children's and Specialist Services)
NAME OF CONTACT OFFICER:	Tony Warnock
CONTACT OFFICER TEL NO:	01522 553250
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IS REPORT CONFIDENTIAL?	No

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise the Schools Forum of the publication of the School and Early Years Finance Regulations for 2014/15.

DISCUSSION

On 13th December 2013, the DfE updated information on its website regarding the School and Early Years Finance Regulations for 2014/15. The regulations are 39 pages in length and a copy can be found at:

The regulations apply to the 2014/15 financial year and come into force on 1st January 2014. They give effect to the changes to the school funding system previously announced, including decisions relating to the definitions of allowable formula factors and budgets which can be centrally retained.

A separate School Lunches Order has been laid to clarify what is already common practice, i.e. that the responsibility in respect of school lunches falls on all maintained schools, rather than on local authorities, and this is not dependent on there being a specific amount of budget share allocated in respect of school lunches.

The DfE has also published a summary of the new features in the regulations and the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) conditions of grant for 2014/15. These are attached at Appendix 1.

The Schools Forum will be familiar with many of the key points highlighted in Appendix 1. Many of them have been discussed as part of the revision of the local school funding arrangements for 2014/15.

LA officers will ensure compliance with the regulations before the new funding arrangements for 2014/15 become operational.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

APPENDICES (If applicable) - these are listed below and attached at the back of the report.

Appendix 1: Summary of new features in the School and Early Years Finance (England) regulations 2013 and the DSG conditions of Grant for the financial year 2014/15.

BACKGROUND PAPERS			
PAPER TYPE	TITLE	DATE	ACCESSIBILITY
Statutory Instruments	School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013	13 th December 2013	http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/financialmanagement/schoolsrevenuefunding/financeregulations/a00230533/school-and-early-years-finance-regulations-2014-15

SUMMARY OF NEW FEATURES IN THE SCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS FINANCE (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 AND THE DSG CONDITIONS OF GRANT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2014-15

This note does not draw attention to changes made purely to improve the drafting of the regulations.

The consultation version of the regulations included an amendment to the Order made in 1999 that transferred responsibility for school meals from local authorities to schools with delegated budgets, to make it clear that this transfer applies to schools even where the local authority does not provide a specific amount of funding to the school for lunches. This is a clarification of existing policy. Schools already fund lunches from their mainstream budgets rather than from a specific grant. This clarification has gone ahead, but has been made as a separate Order for legal reasons.

Regulation 3 includes an amendment to the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012 to require the election of a representative of providers of 16 to 19 education to the schools forum, and to remove the inclusion of a representative of the local authority's 14 to 19 partnership on the forum. Eligible institutions are those in the FE sector (FE and sixth form colleges) and other post-school institutions that specialise in SEN and LDD provision (ISPs), where 20% or more of their students reside in the authority's area. This change comes into force on 1 January 2014. We will update our material on schools forums to reflect this.

Regulation 5 and regulation 11 require local authorities to make an initial determination of their 2014-15 schools budget, individual schools budget and the amount of each school's budget share by 28th February 2014 (except in relation to sixth form funding, and to special schools, pupil referral units and nursery provision). In the previous Regulations the date for doing this was 15th March.

Sixth form funding must be determined within a reasonable period of notification to the authority by the Secretary of State, and funding for special schools, PRUs and nursery provision must be determined by 31st March.

Regulation 8(7) allows local authorities to carry over any unspent money from the 2013-14 growth and infant class size funds to be used for the same purposes in 2014-15. This is a change from the draft regulations, which proposed instead that unspent money should be included in the Individual Schools Budget. The new provision will simplify the procedure for constructing a growth and infant class size fund for 2014-15.

Regulation 8(8) allows local authorities to carry over into 2014-15 unspent de-delegated central expenditure to be used for the same purpose as it was used in 2013-14. In other words, it can be used for de-delegated services without having to allocate through the formula again. This responds to representations that this money de-delegated by maintained schools should continue to be available for the use of maintained schools.

Regulation 11(3) has been changed to require local authorities, in identifying funding for SEN pupils in individual primary and secondary school budgets (the notional SEN budget), to calculate that sum with reference to a threshold of £6,000. Schools are expected to meet the costs of the additional support required by pupils with SEN up to that cost threshold. The great majority of local authorities implemented the £6,000 threshold in 2013-14.

Regulation 11(8) prevents local authorities from redetermining a school's or early years provider's 2014-15 budget once it has been set, except in specific circumstances. This provision

to limit in-year redeterminations was introduced for 2013-14 but there has been some confusion about it so we are clarifying the position.

The definition of “pupils” for **regulation 13 and elsewhere (other than regulations 15 and 16 in so far as they relate to early years)** has been amended to clarify that pupils only count if they are single registered or dual main registered at the school.

Regulation 13(2) provides that reserved SEN places, whether filled or unfilled, do not in general count towards a school’s pupil numbers for the purpose of calculating its budget through the mainstream local funding formula. For 2013-14 the regulation provided that pupils in reserved SEN places did not count. The change is to avoid double funding. However, the number of reserved SEN places deducted is to be reduced by any place occupied by a nursery age child or by a child not registered at the school, since these children would not be included in the pupil numbers anyway.

Regulation 13(5) provides that the basic per pupil amount (the age-weighted pupil unit) in a local authority’s formula must be at least £2000 for primary and £3000 for secondary pupils.

Regulation 14 has been amended to ensure that, for maintained special schools, the separate calculation of funding for sixth form places ceases with effect from 1st August 2014, and all places (including sixth form places) other than hospital education places will then attract £10,000 per annum. The EFA will also apply this change to special academies and to non-maintained special schools. The purpose is to simplify the arrangements for special schools, who do not in general organise themselves with separate sixth forms.

Regulation 16 has been expanded to include exempt early education providers and community early years provision in maintained schools. The first of these changes reflects the revised Early education and childcare: Statutory guidance to local authorities, which came into effect in September 2013. Section A4 of this guidance makes clear that LAs should fund providers who have exemptions from the Early Years Foundation Stage Learning and Development requirements if a parent wants their child to attend that provider. The second change brings in provision made by maintained schools for children not registered at the school, under their community provision powers (section 27 of the Education Act 2002). The two changes allow this types of funding to count as part of the individual schools budget.

The provision formerly made in this regulation, enabling LAs to vary funding paid to providers of funded early education if the number of children admitted by a provider was in excess of any number agreed by the LA, has been deleted. This provision, by potentially reducing the funding paid for some children, risked constraining parental choice about where to access their funded early education.

Regulation 18(7) excludes schools that opened in the previous seven financial years and are still adding year groups from the capping and scaling of budgets under regulation 18(4) to pay for the minimum funding guarantee. This is because the capping of budgets for schools in such circumstances on a per pupil basis can produce distorting effects.

Regulation 21 makes revised provisions for new, merged and closing schools.

Where a new school opens after 1 April 2014 as a replacement for two or more maintained schools, its budget for the remainder of the financial year is to be calculated by adding together the budget shares of the predecessor schools.

Where a new school has resulted from the merger of two or more schools in 2013-14 or on 1 April 2014, the local authority must pay the merged school a lump sum equal to 85% of the two lump sums that the schools would have received in 2014-15 if they had not merged.

Any other new school opening in 2014-15 is to have a budget share calculated under the regulations for the appropriate period.

Any school closing during 2014-15 is to have a budget share calculated under the regulations up to the date of closing.

Local authorities may apply to the Secretary of State to alter the operation of any part of this regulation.

Regulation 23(8) provides that the sum to be determined for an excluded pupil in a sixth form is £4,000 on an annual basis. This sum has been brought into line with the base funding for a full-time sixth form pupil in the academic year 2013/14.

Schedule 2, paragraph 9 allows local authorities to retain centrally a falling rolls fund for outstanding or good schools (including academies) if the schools' capacity is likely to be needed within the next three years to meet rising pupil numbers. There is a correction from the draft which mentioned only outstanding academies.

The previous provision in **Schedule 2** allowing local authorities to retain funding for CRC allowances for schools centrally has been deleted since schools will be excluded from the CRC scheme with effect from 1 April 2014. However, pupil referral units remain within the scheme so there is a new provision at **paragraph 26** allowing the retention of funding for PRUs only.

Schedule 2, paragraph 12 allows authorities to retain funding for licences purchased centrally by the Secretary of State, following the introduction of the new Copyright Licensing Agency and Music Publishers Association licences in 2013-14. The Department is in negotiations with some other licensing bodies.

Schedule 2, paragraph 25 has been extended to cover central retention of PFI and Building Schools for the Future (BSF) costs in relation to special academies, PRUs and alternative provision academies, as well as maintained special schools.

Schedule 3, paragraphs 1 and 2 allows local authorities to set a lump sum of up to £175,000 and set a different lump sum for primary and secondary schools. Lump sums for middle schools are to be calculated as an average of the primary and secondary sums. For 2013-14 the lump sum limit was £200,000 and had to be the same for primary and secondary schools.

Schedule 3, paragraph 3 has been amended to reflect the use of data from the new early years foundation stage profile in deciding whether a pupil attracts prior attainment funding. Because the percentage of pupils qualifying under the new profile across an authority may be much higher than under the old profile, and this could have a distorting effect for some schools (eg infant schools), the paragraph allows local authorities to adjust the figure under the new profile down towards, but no further than, the local percentage under the old profile. This is a change from the consultation.

Schedule 3, paragraph 4 allows pupils who did not achieve level 4 in maths or English to attract prior attainment funding. In 2013-14 the regulations provided that only those who did not achieve a level 4 in both English and maths attracted the funding.

Schedule 3, paragraphs 7 and 8 provides that the allocation of funding through the mobility factors applies only where more than 10% of pupils in a school are mobile. For 2013-14 the factors applied where a school had any number of mobile pupils.

Schedule 3, paragraph 9 provides that pupils who were being looked after on 31st March 2013, regardless of how long they had been looked after, can attract funding through the looked after children factor. In 2013-14 local authorities had a choice of whether to apply the factor to those who had been looked after for at least a day, at least six months or at least 12 months.

Schedule 3, paragraphs 14 and 15 provides for the new sparsity factor. Details were set out in the operational guidance for local authorities in June 2013. The text has been clarified from the consultation version, including a provision that separate

minimum distances may be set for secondary schools, middle deemed secondary schools and all through schools.

DSG Conditions of Grant

New condition (c) requires local authorities to allocate at least 80% of funding through pupil-led factors.

New condition (d) allows local authorities to cap or scale school budgets only to the extent that is required to fund the minimum funding guarantee. The purpose of this is to make the operation of both the formula and the MFG more transparent, so that schools know what they would have received without the operation of the MFG.

Conditions (g) and (h) relating to the operation of top-up funding for high needs pupils have been updated.

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS OF GRANT FOR DSG 2014-15

- (a) the authority must maintain a single formula for funding both maintained schools and Academies in its area;
- (b) in constructing the formula, the authority must take account of the circumstances of all Academies and maintained schools in its area;
- (c) the formula must allocate at least 80% of funding through pupil-led factors (single per pupil amount, social deprivation, prior attainment, English as an additional language, pupil mobility, looked after children, differential salaries of teachers near London);
- (d) any limiting or scaling back of the funding of schools and Academies that gain from the formula must not exceed in total the cost of funding the minimum funding guarantee for schools and Academies entitled to the MFG;
- (e) in using funding held centrally within DSG, other than funding that has been de-delegated by maintained schools, the authority must treat maintained schools and Academies to which recoupment applies on an equivalent basis;
- (f) in making arrangements for funding young people with high needs, the authority must treat those placed in maintained provision, in Academies and Free Schools, in the FE sector, and in non-maintained and independent provision on a fair and equivalent basis;
- (g) in deciding on top-up funding rates for the pupils it will place in special schools maintained by the Authority and Special Academies formerly maintained by the authority, the authority must ensure that the rates for each school are set no lower than at such a rate or rates that, if all the pupils in the school or Academy were placed by the authority, and the total number and type of places remained the same in the two financial years, the school or Academy's budget would reduce by no more than 1.5% in cash between 2013-14 and 2014-15;
- (h) when a pupil who requires top-up funding has already been placed in an institution and is in receipt of top-up funding from the authority at 31 March 2014, the authority must continue the agreement with the institution to make such top-up payments until such time as the pupil has left the institution, or the contract is replaced by another. When such a pupil is placed by the authority in an institution at a later date, the authority must likewise enter into such an agreement;
- (i) when making top-up payments to institutions for high needs pupils, the authority must make the payments in a timely fashion on a basis agreed with the institution, which must be monthly unless otherwise agreed

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Agenda Item 6



Regulatory and Other Committee

Keith Batty, Assistant Director on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Director of Children's Services

Report to:	Lincolnshire Schools' Forum
Date:	15 January, 2014
Subject:	Pathfinder Outreach and Wider Outreach Support

Summary:

Pathfinder Outreach is one element of a complex set of arrangements to develop capacity in Lincolnshire schools to better meet the needs of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. This, in turn, sits alongside support for schools intended to help them manage children with challenging behaviours (see diagram on page 5).

This report summarises the arrangements to secure holistic outreach support for mainstream schools with pupils with special educational needs and/ or disabilities (SEND) that were put in place as part of the county's SEND Strategy increased locality based provision. It is brought to Lincolnshire Schools' Forum so that members can be consulted about the continuation or otherwise of Pathfinder Outreach, beyond 31st March 2014. However, as Pathfinder Outreach is only one component of the holistic package of support, that decision can only be taken in the context of the whole offer. As some schools also deliver Behaviour Outreach, this element has also been included within the report to give the whole picture.

This report considers the effectiveness and value for money of the Pathfinder Outreach support provided by those schools currently in receipt of funding, the effectiveness of the wider offer, and ways forward for the future.

Option 1: Retain the current arrangement in which Pathfinder Outreach is one component of a complex mix of sources of support

Strengths:

- Would allow the good practice already developed through Pathfinder Outreach to continue to be built upon.
- Pathfinder Outreach has been accredited Nationally by the National Autistic Society (NAS).
- Would retain Lincolnshire expertise already developed.
- Would retain stability in relation to the current mix of support provided.
- The downward trend in numbers and cost of Out of County placements and Statements would be anticipated to continue.

Risks:

- Does not encourage consistent approaches to particular needs.
- Support for SEND across the county is not considered or organised holistically and is perceived to be fragmented by service users.
- Specialist accredited and NAS kite-marked staff currently engaged to deliver outreach in the funded schools may go into other roles.
- Delivery of all outreach is not monitored consistently and cannot flex readily to users' needs.
- Lack of equitable accountability for the entirety of services provided.
- Does not provide equitable access to provision for the users of services across the county.
- Does not allow gaps and overlaps in provision to be identified and addressed.
- No single point of contact for outreach referrals.
- Outreach provision would have to be outsourced to other providers.
- This could cause instability and could have a negative impact on the schools and children and young people accessing support, as time would be required to develop and embed this effectively.

Option 2: Rationalise School to School Outreach Support so that it is all commissioned on an equitable basis from 1st April, 2014. Funding levels should remain the same for 2014-15

Strengths:

- Would retain Lincolnshire expertise. There is evidence of outstanding practice within Lincolnshire Special Schools and they have a key part to play in providing support and expertise to colleagues in mainstream schools.
- Would enable all providers to work to the same Service Level Agreement.
- Would strengthen existing collaborative links with the County Council's Additional Needs Service.
- Would provide equity for all existing service providers.
- Would provide equity for service users, ensuring quality support provided to young people and schools.

- Would continue to reduce the reliance on Out of County placements and Statements.
- Would provide stability for a further financial year whilst a cross county specification is being developed.
- Would provide an opportunity to develop a single point of contact for outreach referrals.
- Would be in line with National research.
- Would be in line with the direction of travel both nationally and locally.

Risks:

- Specialist accredited and NAS kite-marked staff currently engaged to delivery outreach in the funded schools may go into other roles.
- Would need additional development to ensure consistency of approach.

Option 3: Establish a wholly commissioned service for delivery from July 2015, in consultation with all schools and invite proposals to deliver components of the service from existing and new providers

Strengths:

- Would facilitate the development of an holistic overall approach linking all tiers and types of support available across the county.
- Would provide a service that is much easier for schools to navigate and access.
- Would provide clear channels of accountability for the quality, timeliness and volume of service delivery.
- Would enable outreach support services for children with SEND to be considered alongside outreach services for children exhibiting challenging behaviours that may, or may not, be attributable to underlying conditions deemed SEND.
- Would enable countywide needs to be determined, identifying any gaps and overlaps in the current provision, culminating in a new specification. This will allow gaps in specialist provision to be identified and filled in terms of geographical access and types of need.
- Would provide clear and accessible pathways of support for all young people at risk of exclusion.
- Would provide a service delivery model to maximise the impact of the outreach services provided.
- Would provide an equitable level of accountability for a quality service and would ensure that delivery is cost efficient.
- Would encourage the further development of skills and expertise within collaborative groups of schools and would acknowledge current Lincolnshire expertise.
- Would ensure a common model, delivered by phase, commissioned using Local Authority mechanisms. This would ensure equity for service users and service providers.
- Would provide a single point of contact for outreach referrals.
- The Local Authority's investment in training and resources would not be lost.

- Would ensure continued and regular information on the support available to schools for the vulnerable and challenging young people in their care.
- Would continue to reduce reliance on Out of County placements.

Risks:

- Not all existing providers may be successful in the tendering process, causing some instability in the first instance.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Options 2 and 3 are adopted by the County Council (see Conclusion on page 9). If accepted, then work would be undertaken to establish a framework of what the new service would look like.

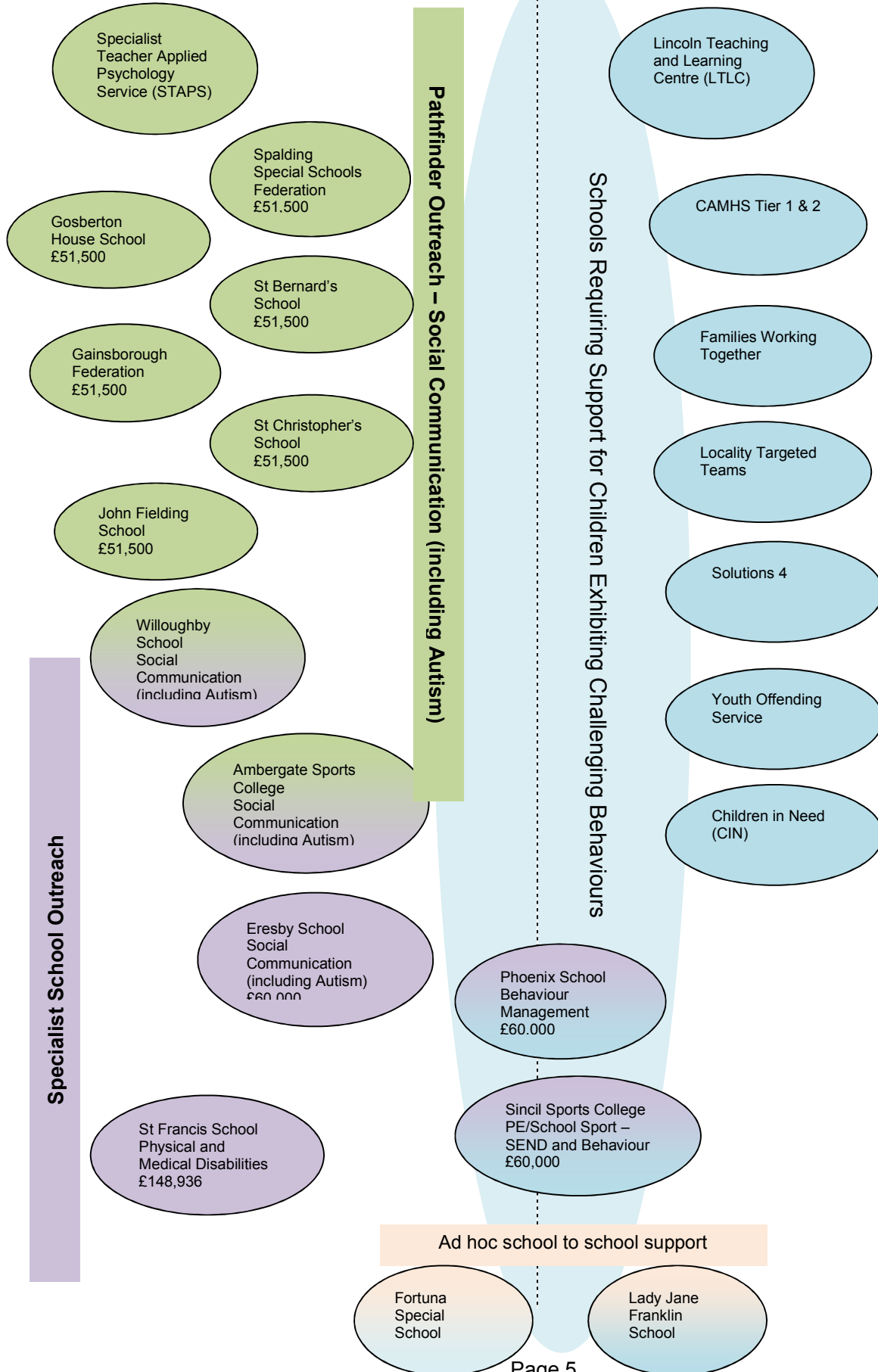
It is also recommended that Options 2 and 3 are considered within a wider strategic context to ensure maximum co-ordination and most effective use of resources both County-wide and in localities.

Within option 2 and 3, it is further proposed to establish a formal contractual and monitoring mechanism for existing provision

Background

SEND Outreach Delivery

"Behaviour" Support



Background continued

A. Outreach Provision

- Dyslexia outreach and Specialist Teacher support is offered to schools across the county via The Specialist Teachers Applied Psychology Service (STAPS).
- Pathfinder Outreach support (Social Communication, including Autism) is offered countywide across all key stages and is split between STAPS and a number of Special schools.
- Secondary support offered by STAPS covers Lincoln and surrounding areas and East Lindsey. Secondary support offered by the identified Special schools covers:
 - The Spalding Special Schools Federation (Priory and Garth Special Schools) - primarily the South of the county
 - The Gainsborough Federation (Warren Wood and Aegir Community Schools) – West Lindsey
 - Ambergate Sports College - Grantham.
- Primary support offered by the identified Special schools covers:
 - Gosberton House School - South Holland, South Kesteven and south of Sleaford
 - St Bernard's School - East Lindsey
 - John Fielding School - Boston and the surrounding districts, including Sleaford
 - The Gainsborough Federation - West Lindsey
 - St Christopher's School - Lincoln and environs and Sleaford
 - Ambergate Sports College - Grantham area
 - The Willoughby School - Bourne
- St Francis School in Lincoln offers physical and medical disabilities outreach support (including IT and PE support), outside of the Pathfinder Outreach programme, to all schools, academies and nurseries across the county. They also provide support to parents/carers, colleges and other professionals.
- The Eresby School offers Social Communication (including Autism) outreach to primary schools in the Spilsby and East Coast area.
- Behaviour Management Outreach is provided by The Phoenix School and The Sincil Sports College. The Phoenix School supports local schools on behaviour management within the classroom and whole school policy and practice. The Sincil Sports College provides outreach support on Physical Education/School Sport and subject and enrichment support focusing around SEND and behaviour, but not necessarily with statemented Special Educational Needs.
- The Lincolnshire Teaching and Learning Centre operates a "pathways" scheme to support schools and young people, aiming to develop progression routes for young people experiencing difficulties in terms of social and emotional behaviour.

B. Effectiveness

Pathfinder Outreach

- Pathfinder Outreach has successfully received Autism Accreditation from the National Autistic Society (NAS). The external review findings were that the Pathfinder Outreach initiative has been successful, highly valued and effective. A summary of the NAS accreditation and findings were provided in Appendix 3 of the Outreach Report to Schools' Forum in June 2013.
- The NAS Accreditation Team has nominated Pathfinder Outreach for an "Excellence Award", with the result of the nomination being known in March 2014.
- Feedback from families and schools on Pathfinder Outreach has generally been positive. However, for Secondary provision it has been identified that there is a need for the development of a more effective and understood outreach service to schools. Feedback from families and schools has included:
 - "The pupil, parents, SENCO, teaching staff and teaching assistants have all been involved in a programme of support for individuals, which is a highly successful model of working drawing on knowledge of all involved in care and education of the child and working on a problem solving approach. Support is available for the more complex cases which has been much appreciated by all involved."
- Approximately £587,270 has been saved on Out of County placements (see Appendix 1).
- Approximately between £972,000 and £1,579,500 has been saved on Statements (see Appendix 1).
- For academic year 2012/13 all Lincolnshire schools and academies were offered support through Pathfinder Outreach. During that academic year 242 Primary schools and 51 Secondary schools accessed support, with support also being provided to 23 pre-schools and nurseries. Case studies provided by the Pathfinder Outreach schools show that there is a variation in the time spent per child, which is expected given the nature and complexity of the children and young people's needs. Further information is provided in Appendices 1 and 2.

'Specialist School' and Legacy Outreach

- 3 out of the 6 "Specialist School" funded schools contribute to Pathfinder Outreach and were included in the external accreditation by NAS. As far as we are aware, no external accreditation of the support provided by the remaining 3 schools has taken place.
- It is not possible to obtain service user perceptions for all relevant schools. Case studies have been provided by 4 out of the 6 schools and support demonstrated through the case studies appears to have a positive impact.
- It is not known how much of the savings achieved on Out of County placements is attributable to the "Specialist School" funded schools.
- Evidence provided shows that there is variability in the volume of service delivery. St Francis School offers support to more than 100 schools across the county. Support for 83 Lincolnshire schools and academies has been provided by the remaining "Specialist School" funded schools.

- It was an expectation that “Specialist Schools” should earmark a significant proportion of the funding provided to support other schools. For the majority of the schools it was their understanding that this should equate to a minimum of approximately 1.5 days a week of outreach support (0.3 FTE). From evidence provided, there is variability on the amount of support provided by the “Specialist Schools”; for example, Ambergate Sports College and Sincil Sports College support equates to approximately 1.0 FTE. Further information is provided in Appendices 1 and 2.
- St Francis School physical and medical disabilities support equates to 2.0 FTE, with the school anticipating that this will increase in September 2014.

STAPS Outreach

- STAPS have been integral to the success of the Pathfinder Outreach and were included in the external accreditation by NAS.
- The STAPS Coordinator is the strategic lead for the Pathfinder Outreach and has supported Special schools to develop their expertise in collaboration with the Headteacher of Gosberton House Special School.
- Service user comments include: “The team offer invaluable advice and support in schools in understanding, managing and with offering strategies re behaviours for children with Autism”.
- For Secondary provision it has been identified through a parallel review of Inclusion, that there is a need for the development of a wider and more accessible and navigable outreach service to schools.
- STAPS, as a founder member of the Autism outreach, are an integral part of the Pathfinder Outreach and have contributed to the savings identified above in relation to Out of County placements.
- STAPS is funded to provide 1.0 FTE of Pathfinder Outreach support. It currently has 110 “live” cases which equates to 1.6 FTE.

Behaviour Management Outreach

- The resources available to keep young people included in mainstream education varies by geographical area and age group. This is an issue of equity.
- At Secondary level there is a need for the development of a more effective and easy to understand outreach service to schools. There has been a transition from a Behavioural Support Service to the Lincolnshire Teaching and Learning Centre (LTLTC) managed Pathways Service. Initial reports are that this is an improvement on the previous service to individual pupils. However, there is inconsistency in reported experiences of the service.
- The Pathways Service does not provide whole school improvement activity around challenging behaviour and vulnerable learners. Rather, it is focussed on individual cases. There is an example of successful outreach work around developing whole school improvement from the Primary BESD school. Currently this type of support is provided with regard to improving whole school approaches to ASD through Special Schools.

- Within Lincolnshire a market has developed with regard to alternative provision at Key Stage 4. If looked at strategically this market is providing a curriculum pathway within the authority, meeting the needs of a well-defined group of young people and with a focus on vocational and personal skills based education.
- There is currently a huge variation in the type of training being delivered in schools.
- Anecdotal evidence suggests that behaviour management solutions tend to be found from within the specialism of the service provider, rather than through examination of the circumstances and case history of the individual child.

C. Conclusion

There is evidence that Pathfinder Outreach is satisfactory value for money and that it provides a satisfactory service. However, where Specialist Status funding has been continued in the expectation that Special Schools will continue to deliver an Outreach service to the same value (£60,000 pa), there is less concrete evidence of value for money. It appears that some schools in receipt of ongoing replacement for the Specialist Status funding have regarded this as a like-for-like replacement to cover all the activities that were originally required of that status. However, the replacement has been found from the High Needs Block on the basis that it is used solely for outreach work although there is no specific Service Level Agreement in place as there is for Pathfinder Outreach schools. It is recommended that all schools offering an Outreach Service retain the same level of funding they are currently receiving for financial year 2014/15, but with a Service Level Agreement in place for all outreach schools from 1st April 2014.

Evidence from a parallel review of Inclusion issues shows that too many children and young people are being excluded from school because the school cannot deal effectively with their Special Educational Needs or with their challenging behaviours. Often the two are closely intertwined. There is a need to re-think how all outreach support is specified and delivered so that it best meets the needs of all service users, no matter where they are located geographically. Although there is some outstanding practice, the current system appears to be based more on what expertise is available rather than on what needs schools are identifying. Once fully specified and mapped, it is likely that many of the schools currently providing Outreach support will be best placed to put in a proposal to deliver it in the future. However, it is only by fully mapping need that we can identify fully the gaps in provision as well as unnecessary overlap. Moreover, by moving to a wholly commissioned model, we can better monitor performance against specification and flex provision to meet emergent need.

Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Outreach Provision Funding and Frequency of Provision

Appendix 2 – Summary of Case Studies and Support Provided

Background Papers

This report was written by Keith Batty, who can be contacted on 01522 553298 or email kbatty@cftb.com.

Appendix 1 – Outreach Provision Funding, Frequency of Provision and Approximate Financial Savings Achieved Across the County

Outreach Provision Funding and Frequency of Provision

The following schools are in receipt of £51,500 (based on £40,710 per year for specialist teacher plus on costs, travel, resources, training, etc) PO funding which provides funding to employ teacher(s) at 1.0 FTE unless otherwise stated:

- The Gainsborough Federation (Aegir & Warren Wood Community Schools)
- Gosberton House School
- John Fielding School
- St Bernard's School
- St Christopher's School
- Spalding Special Schools Federation (SSSF)

The average calculations for the schools identified above are:

Name of School	Number of "Live" Cases	Average Hours per Case	Average FTE
Gainsborough Federation	107	19 hours and 54 minutes	1.65 FTE
*Gosberton House School	159	19 hours and 54 minutes	2.45 FTE
John Fielding School	190	19 hours and 54 minutes	2.93 FTE
St Bernard's School	135	13 hours and 40 minutes	1.43 FTE
St Christopher's School	205	8 hours and 3 minutes	1.3 FTE
Spalding Special Schools Federation	169	13 hours	1.73 FTE

*The Headteacher has provided leadership and mentoring through the recent successful NAS accreditation process at no cost to PO currently. The accreditation process is on-going.

St Francis School receives £88,936 of funding for Physical and Medical Disabilities Outreach Provision, further information is provided within in the paragraphs below.

The Specialist Teaching and Applied Psychology Service (STAPS) has a different funding mechanism as a founding member of Autism Outreach. STAPS is funded to provide 1.0 FTE of PO Support; they currently support 110 "live" cases which equates to 1.6 FTE.

The following schools provide Outreach support as part of their Specialist School Status agreement, in addition three schools (Willoughby School, Ambergate Sports College and Eresby School) provide one day a week of Pathfinder Outreach support:

- Ambergate Sports College, Grantham
- The Eresby School, Spilsby
- The Phoenix School, Grantham
- St Francis School, Lincoln*
- The Sincil Sports College, Lincoln
- Willoughby School, Bourne

The schools identified above currently receive £60,000 per annum to continue to engage staff and undertake Specialist Status activities, including providing Outreach support. The minimum expectation for these schools was to provide at least 1.5 days a week of outreach support (0.3 FTE).

*St Francis School also receive £88,936 in addition to the £60,000 as part of the originally established Outreach Programme.

From information provided by the Specialist Status schools, the following schools are providing more than the minimum 0.3 FTE outreach support:

Name of School	Type of Outreach Support	Average FTE	Number of Schools Supported
St Francis School	Outreach Support for Physically/Medically Disabled Pupils (including IT and PE Support)	2.0 FTE (Increasing to 3.0 FTE in Sept 14)	100+ (150 pupils)
Sincil Sports College	Physical Education/ School Sport, Subject Enrichment Support with a focus on SEND and Behaviour Support	1.3 FTE	33 (2,628 pupils)
Ambergate Sports College	Autism Outreach, 1 x day a week of Pathfinder Outreach Support, Speech and Language Training (SALT) Support	1.5 FTE	15 (70 pupils)

Approximate Savings Achieved Across the County – Pathfinder Outreach

Case studies and/or discussion records from January 2011 to November 2013 indicate that there were 7 occasions where an Out of County placement was discussed at review(s) of progress and a decision was taken for the child(ren) or young person to remain in county with continuing Pathfinder Outreach intervention:

Average Cost of an Out of County Placement	£83,895.75 per year (fees only)
Approximate saving achieved	£587,270.25

Prior to the setting up of Pathfinder Outreach in September 2011, the service was known as Autism Outreach (which was set up in 2001). The analysis of the number of ASD Statements and Out of County ASD placements in 2003 when Centris was introduced, shows a significant reduction in opened Out of County placements coincident with the introduction of Pathfinder Outreach:

Number of Out of County Placements opened March 03 to March 04	18
Number of Out of County Placements opened March 06 to March 07	3
Number of Out of County Placements opened March 09 to March 10	2
Number of Out of County Placements opened March 11 to March 12	1
Number of Out of County Placements opened March 2012 to March 2013	0

There have been a number of occasions where referral to Special Educational Needs and Disability Statutory Assessment and Provision (SENDSAP) for increased funding via Statement was discussed at reviews of progress during January 2011 to November 2013 and a decision was taken for the child or young person to remain at School Action Plus (SAP):

Number of referrals which remained on School Action Plus	100
Average cost of provision	£15,795 (full time Statemented support) £9,720 (20 hours Statemented support)
Total approximate saving per annum	Between £972,000 and £1,579,500

Statemented Pupil Cases opened, has reduced from 364 in 2003/4 to 103 in 2012/13, coincident with the introduction of Pathfinder Outreach.

In addition, case studies/discussion records indicate that Pathfinder Outreach personnel were involved at the preparatory stage for 6 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Tribunal (SENDIST) cases which were all agreed by the LA before coming to court.

Obviously, Pathfinder Outreach is not the only factor in reducing Out of County Placements or Statements, but should be seen as a contributory one.

Appendix 2

Summary of Outreach Support provided by Pathfinder Schools and other schools outside of the Pathfinder Outreach Programme

Name of School	Type of Outreach Provision	Examples of Support Provided
Gainsborough Federation	Pathfinder Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides Social and Communication including Autism outreach support to 42 schools (including pre-schools and nurseries). Supporting approximately 107 pupils. Advice and training on PIVATS, e.g. measuring progress especially for Physical, Social and Emotional Difficulties, using a reduced visual timetable, undertaking a sensory audit. Who school training on Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to develop consistency in schools. Advice and support to parents. Attendance at annual reviews. Liaising with various agencies, e.g. Speech and Language Team (SALT), Community Paediatricians.
Ambergate Sports College, Grantham	Pathfinder Outreach/Specialist School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides Social and Communication including Autism outreach support to 15 schools (including pre-school/nurseries). Including transition support from nursery to school and developing strategies in relation to challenging behaviour. Supporting approximately 70 pupils. Drop in sessions for parents and telephone support. Attendance at annual reviews. Resources available on loan. Provide a venue for the Grantham Autistic Information Network (GAIN) for meetings and training events.
Gosberton House School	Pathfinder Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Lead for Lincolnshire Social Communication (including Autism) Outreach Service. National Autistic Society Accredited. Provides Social and Communication including Autism outreach support to 31 primary schools (including pre-school/nurseries). Supporting approximately 159 pupils. Advice and training on PIVATS. Early Bid+ delivered to parents and TA. Emotional Literacy and Visual Impairment Support. Advice and support to parents. Attendance at annual reviews. Liaising with various agencies, e.g. Community Paediatricians, Speech and Language Team (SALT), Early Support Care Co-ordinator (ESCO).
John Fielding School, Boston	Pathfinder Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides Social Communication including Autism outreach support to 57 schools (including pre-schools and nurseries). Supporting approximately 190 pupils. Advice and support to parents. Attendance at annual reviews. Transition support. Liaising with various agencies, e.g. Community Paediatricians, Educational Psychologists.

St Bernard's School, Louth	Pathfinder Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides Social Communication including Autism outreach support to 24 primary schools. • Supporting approximately 135 pupils. • Advice and support to parents. • Attendance at annual reviews. • Advice and training on PIVATS. • Early Bird +. • Liaising with various agencies, e.g. Community Paediatricians, Educational Psychologists, Speech and Language Team (SALT).
St Christopher's School, Lincoln	Pathfinder Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides Social Communication including Autism outreach support to 56 schools (including pre-schools and nurseries). • Supporting approximately 205 pupils. • Advice and support to parents. • Attendance at annual reviews. • Advice and support on challenging behaviour. • Liaising with various agencies, e.g. Community Paediatricians, Educational Psychologists, Speech and Language Team (SALT).
Spalding Special Schools Federation	Pathfinder Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides Social Communication including Autism outreach support to 21 secondary schools. • Supporting approximately 84 pupils. • Advice and support to parents. • Attendance at annual reviews. • Liaising with various agencies, e.g. Community Paediatricians, ECLIPS.
Willoughby School, Bourne	Pathfinder Outreach/Specialist School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides Social Communication including Autism outreach support to 6 primary schools and 1 pre-school/nursery. • Supporting approximately 45 pupils. • Advice and support to parents. • Attendance at annual reviews. • Liaising with various agencies, e.g. Community Paediatricians.
Specialist Teachers Applied Psychologist Service (STAPS)	Pathfinder Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Lead for Pathfinder Outreach programme. • National Autistic Society Accredited. • Provides Social Communication including Autism outreach support to 65 schools. • Supporting approximately 110 pupils. • Advice and support to parents. • Attendance at annual reviews.

St Francis School, Lincoln	Inclusion/Outreach Support for Physically/Medically Disabled Pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical and Medical Disabilities Outreach Support offered across the County. Service is available full time throughout term time. Service is available to variety of sources, e.g. parents, nurseries, schools, colleges, other professionals. Currently support 100+ schools. Currently supporting 150 pupils. Supporting schools in the use of technology to enable physically disabled pupils to communicate and access the curriculum. Support and advice in PE lessons and other practical lessons for mainstream schools. To extend the support offered by the service a TA is furthering her skills and qualifications to join the team in September 2014.
The Phoenix School, Grantham	BESD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support provided to SENCOs in a number of schools. Worked with schools on behaviour management within the classroom and whole school policy and practice. Provided support in developing individual curriculum strategies for pupils with challenging behaviour. Support provided to 16 schools.
Sincil Sports College, Lincoln	Physical Education/School Sport, Subject and Enrichment Support with a Focus on SEND & Behaviour Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported provided to primary and secondary schools across the county. Also engaged with further education centres and pre-school settings. Work with primary settings centred around the training of staff to enable them to feel more confident in the delivery of PE. In addition, whole school schemes have given pupils a taster session on various inclusive sports. Work with secondary settings varied across the county. This has included equipping students with knowledge to enable them to deliver their own sessions with their cluster primary schools and delivering training on working with autistic pupils in PE and differentiation and adapting lessons to make them inclusive for all students. 35 schools supported. 106 school staff received training. 2,628 pupils directly engaged. 8,695 pupils taking part in wider activities.
The Eresby School, Spilsby	Social, Community and Autism including support with any learning difficulty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 Primary schools supported 28 pupils supported in 2012/13 academic year 40 pupils being supported 2013/14 academic year

Agenda Item 7



REGULATORY AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORT

NAME OF COMMITTEE:	Schools Forum
DATE OF MEETING:	15 January 2014
SUBJECT:	Free School Meal Eligibility
REPORT BY:	Richard Cumbers (Specialist Children's Health Programme Manager – Public Health)
NAME OF CONTACT OFFICER:	Denise Hornsey
CONTACT OFFICER TEL NO:	01522 553491
CONTACT OFFICER EMAIL ADDRESS:	Denise.hornsey@lincolnshire.gov.uk
IS REPORT CONFIDENTIAL?	No

SUMMARY

National figures state that 4,300 pupils in Lincolnshire are eligible for free school meals but their parents are not claiming them. This equates to approx. £4.6m in lost revenue for Lincolnshire Schools (based on the average 2014/15 pupil premium - £1300 primary and £935 secondary pupil).

Currently within the County there is no direct mechanism to capture and notify those families with children who are entitled to free school meals. The current system is cumbersome and difficult to navigate. Claimants have to meet a number of different criteria and go through several stages or 'stops' in order to get access to what they and their children are entitled to.

It is proposed that a pilot is commissioned by Lincolnshire County Council which will see the district councils actively seek all housing benefit claimants eligible for free school meals and notify the relevant schools that they have eligible children. This will streamline the current system and share the responsibility of seeking those eligible, increase free school meal uptake and increase revenue for the County's schools. It is anticipated that the pilot will cost £30,000 to set up and run, a cross directorate working group is in the process of detailing the project and its exact costs.

DISCUSSION

Currently in order to apply for housing benefit – this is obtained directly from the district in which the claimant lives and their eligibility is judged on the following:

- Work full or part-time and receive a low wage
- Receive *Employment and Support Allowance*, *Jobseekers Allowance* or any other state benefit
- Have savings less than £16,000 (this does not apply if you receive Pension Guarantee Credit)
- Pay rent to a private landlord, Housing Association or Local Authority
- Pay Council Tax on your home

A claimant's journey would therefore be:

1. To attend the Job Centre and then to their local district council to make a housing application
2. If the household is on a low income they may apply only to the district council for housing benefit
3. To claim Free School Meals a separate application is made by a variety of methods :
on line, paper, telephone or by support from the child's school.

The criteria for free school meals is:

- Income Support
- Income-based *Jobseekers Allowance*
- Income-related *Employment and Support Allowance*
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

There are obvious cross overs from these two lists; however parents that qualify for Housing Benefit are still not registering for Free School Meals for their children. The latest Government figures to be released (*Ref: Pupils Not Claiming Free School Meals – 2013 DfE Research Report*) indicates that 4,300 pupils in Lincolnshire are eligible but their parents are not claiming them. This equates to approx. £4.6m in lost revenue for Lincolnshire Schools (average 2014/15 pupil premium - £1300 primary and £935 secondary pupil)).

Benefits to the children and family in receipt of FSM are too numerous to list however some of the most obvious include:

- A saving of over £400 per year per child.
- Knowing a child has received a nutritious hot meal in the day, less can be spent on the family meal later in the day.
- Higher levels of concentration and academic attainment because the child is well nourished.
- Incidents of negative behaviour are reduced in children that eat a hot nutritious lunch and are therefore able to access the curriculum.
- FSM registration enables the child to receive additional financial support for school trips, music lessons, uniform, food vouchers and breakfast club, etc.
- The school the child attends will be eligible for Pupil Premium funding for those registered as FSM pupils (£1,300 for primary pupils and £935 at secondary school and if LAC for more than 1 day this rises to £1,900). The money must be used to the benefit of the most deprived and vulnerable pupils in the school although it is not ring-fenced.

- A monetary saving within the household budget reduces financial pressures on the family and may assist them meeting other household expenses.

Lincolnshire County Council and Lincoln District (incorporating North Kesteven claimants) will begin a pilot early in 2014. The pilot will test the discrepancies between those claiming housing benefit and eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM) within the District Councils Database and the FSM list held by Lincolnshire County Council. This pilot will evidence where these missing children are and enable action to be taken. The intention is to replicate the Lincoln Pilot in all seven districts, working with schools in an effort to capture the revenue currently being lost from the county. If the pilot is a success then it is hoped a 'one stop shop' for claimants where their eligibility for all benefits is assessed, would be achievable.

Schools need to be supported to do more to increase their registered FSM numbers. If all the missing eligible children are registered by Jan 2015 – this will generate over £4.6m for Lincolnshire schools.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Schools Forum is asked to note the contents of the report and support the proposed pilot.

APPENDICES - <i>None</i>

BACKGROUND PAPERS			
PAPER TYPE	TITLE	DATE	ACCESSIBILITY
Report to Schools Forum	Free School Meals Uptake	24 April 2013	County Offices, Newland, Lincolns, LN1 1YQ
Report to Schools Forum	Increasing the rate of pupils claiming free school meals	23 January 2013	County Offices, Newland, Lincolns, LN1 1YQ

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REGULATORY AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORT

NAME OF COMMITTEE:	Schools Forum
DATE OF MEETING:	15 January 2014
SUBJECT:	Schools Forum Good Practice Guide
REPORT BY:	Tony Warnock (Head of Finance – Children's & Specialist Services)
NAME OF CONTACT OFFICER:	Tony Warnock
CONTACT OFFICER TEL NO:	01522 553250
CONTACT OFFICER EMAIL ADDRESS:	tony.warnock@lincolnshire.gov.uk
IS REPORT CONFIDENTIAL?	No

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to draw the Schools Forum's attention to the DfE's latest Schools Forum Good Practice Guide. The report explains that the Schools Forum is already compliant with many aspects of the guide, but highlights the actions that will be taken to ensure further compliance.

DISCUSSION

On 25th October 2013, the DfE published its latest version of the Schools Forum Good Practice Guide. A copy is available on the DfE's website at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/financialmanagement/schoolsrevenuefunding/schoolsforums/a0070290/guidance-for-schools'-forums-on-their-role>

This link was also circulated to Schools Forum members last term.

The previous occasion that the Good Practice Guide was issued was in October 2012. A report on that was considered by the Schools Forum in January 2013. The report explained that the Local Authority (LA) had been compliant with the majority of best practice for some time; it set out plans to ensure further compliance, and; listed a number of measures that the LA did not plan to introduce. A year later, the vast majority of the proposed changes have been implemented.

The Good Practice Guide was updated and re-issued by the DfE in October 2013. Officers have repeated their approach by reviewing the content, identifying actions that will ensure further compliance and recorded practice that it does not plan to follow. The result will be that Lincolnshire's Schools Forum will once again be operating in a way that is compliant with the vast majority of the DfE's guidance. To further improve compliance, the LA plans to:

- Seek to publish the contact details of all Schools Forum members. This will help raise the profile of key issues and aid communication with their electorate.
- Continue to review annually the balance of membership between maintained schools and academies. To ensure compliance with the Guide, the LA will consider allowing the overall size of the Schools Forum to grow modestly until re-elections are due. This will reduce the risk of losing members with valuable knowledge and experience.
- Consider reverting back to the previous election should a vacancy arise, and seek to appoint for the relevant sector, the nominee with the next highest level of votes. This would avoid the need to run a new election, and should thereby reduce costs.
- Continue to conduct the election process on behalf of all groups, including academies, unless requested otherwise. This is likely to be the most efficient and cost effective approach.
- Seek to maintain a balanced representation of primary and secondary representatives within the academies group, by using the pupil numbers in each sector. This will ensure that there is an appropriate balance between the primary and secondary sectors when key funding issue are discussed.
- Send out relevant information to new members when joining the Schools Forum.
- Continue to seek and record the names of substitutes.
- Consult all Schools Forum members by email on matters of urgent business, with responses being collated by the LA before a clear way forward is determined in consultation with the Chair of the Schools Forum.

The LA does not plan to:

- Engage an independent clerk. The existing approach is likely to prove more cost effective.
- Produce an annual report on the proceedings of the Schools Forum. That is likely to duplicate reporting and increase costs.
- Create a separate Schools Forum web address. LCC's website will continue to be used.
- Set out the recommendations at the beginning of each report. They will continue to be added at the end, to improve their flow.
- Provide an Executive summary of the reports to give an overview of the agenda and decisions required. The minutes will provide a summary.
- Facilitate a meeting of each represented group on the Schools Forum in the days immediately prior to the Schools Forum meeting, to ensure that the agenda is discussed and the members are properly briefed.
- Share the contact details of the Chair with neighbouring authorities to assist peer support and improve networking opportunities. That is a matter for the Chair to decide.

- Produce a newsletter to communicate Forum business. This should not be necessary given that links to the reports and minutes will be sent to all schools.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Schools Forum is asked to:

1. note the content of the report; and
2. comment upon the LA's proposals for ensuring further compliance with the DfE's guidance.

APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS			
PAPER TYPE	TITLE	DATE	ACCESSIBILITY
DfE Guidance	Schools Forum Good Practice Guide	25 th October 2013	http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/financialmanagement/schoolsrevenuefunding/schoolsforums/a0070290/guidance-for-schools'-forums-on-their-role
Report to Schools Forum	Schools Forum Good Practice Guide	23 rd January 2013	County Offices, Newland, Lincoln, LN1 1YQ

PAPER TYPE	TITLE	DATE	ACCESSIBILITY
DfE Guidance	Schools Forum Good Practice Guide	25 th October 2013	http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/financialmanagement/schoolsrevenuefunding/schoolsforums/a0070290/guidance-for-schools'-forums-on-their-role
Report to Schools Forum	Schools Forum Good Practice Guide	23 rd January 2013	County Offices, Newland, Lincoln, LN1 1YQ

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REGULATORY AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORT

NAME OF COMMITTEE:	Schools Forum
DATE OF MEETING:	15 January 2014
SUBJECT:	Academies Update
REPORT BY:	Michelle Andrews (Head of Property and Technology Management)
NAME OF CONTACT OFFICER:	Adrian Clarke
CONTACT OFFICER TEL NO:	01522 553204
CONTACT OFFICER EMAIL ADDRESS:	adrian.clarke@lincolnshire.gov.uk
IS REPORT CONFIDENTIAL?	No

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the latest number of pupils in academies.

DISCUSSION

The Schools Forum asked for an update to be provided to each meeting on the number of academy conversions.

This is the position as at the 1st January 2014. The pupil figures are based on the October census data (i.e. the latest available).

As of 1st January 2014, there are 109 Academies (30.4%) in Lincolnshire representing 56979 FTE pupils (56.2%)

In the Primary phase there are 62 (22.3%) Academies representing 16566 pupils (31.8%). One of these schools is a free school with 50 current FTE pupils, and another is a new Academy, both of which opened in September 2013 and are new additions to the total list of schools.

A Special free school also opened in September 2013 bringing the total number of Special Academies to three (14.3%) representing 110 pupils (6.6%)

There are 44 (81.5%) Secondary Academies representing 40303 pupils (85.7%).

Current Status of All Lincolnshire State Schools

	Schools		FTE	
Nursery				
All	5		244.4	
Maintained	5	100.0%	244.4	100.0%
Academy	0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
Primary				
All	278		52168	
Maintained	216	77.7%	35602	68.2%
Academy	62	22.3%	16566	31.8%
Secondary				
All	54		47011	
Maintained	10	18.5%	6708	14.3%
Academy	44	81.5%	40303	85.7%
Special				
All	21		1675	
Maintained	18	85.7%	1565	93.4%
Academy	3	14.3%	110	6.6%
PRU				
All	1		300	
Maintained	1	100.0%	300	100.0%
Academy	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total				
All	359		101398	
Maintained	250	69.6%	44419	43.8%
Academy	109	30.4%	56979	56.2%

By 1st June 2014 if conversions and sponsorships proceed according to their target dates the position will be:

Projected Six Month Status of All Lincolnshire State Schools

	Schools		FTE	
Nursery				
All	5		244.4	
Maintained	5	100.0%	244.4	100.0%
Academy	0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
Primary				
All	278		52168	
Maintained	214	77.0%	35368	67.8%
Academy	64	23.0%	16800	32.2%
Secondary				
All	54		47011	
Maintained	10	18.5%	6708	14.3%
Academy	44	81.5%	40303	85.7%
Special				
All	21		1675	
Maintained	18	85.7%	1565	93.4%
Academy	3	14.3%	110	6.6%
PRU				
All	1		300	
Maintained	1	100.0%	300	100.0%
Academy	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total				
All	359		101398	
Maintained	248	69.1%	44185	43.6%
Academy	111	30.9%	57213	56.4%

It is anticipated that the number of sponsored conversions will increase as the government moves its focus to schools that receive inadequate Ofsted reports or return assessment results that are below floor targets. These figures have not yet been published.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

APPENDICES - these are listed below and attached at the back of the report.

None

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Agenda Item 10

Lincolnshire Schools' Forum

15 January 2014

Information Pack

1.	Schools' Forum Work Plan	A
2.	List of Acronyms	B

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Schools' Forum Work Programme

DATE	ITEMS
15 January 2013	See today's agenda
Items for Future Meetings	23 April 2014 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Section 251 Budget Statement 2014/15 2. Families Working Together Service 3. Energy and Sustainability Update 4. Arrangements for Early Years Provision

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Acronyms

DSG	Dedicated Schools Grant
DSB	Dedicated Schools Budget
ISB	Individual Schools Budget
AWPU	Age Weighted Pupil Unit
MFG	Minimum Funding Guarantee
DfE	Department for Education
SFVS	Schools Financial Value Standard
ESG	Education Support Grant
LA	Local Authority
PVI	Private, Voluntary and Independent providers
EYSFF	Early Years Single Funding Formula
PFI	Private Finance Initiative
CERA	Capital Expenditure from the Revenue Account
MTFP	Medium Term Finance Plan
SEN	Special Educational Needs
DFC	Devolved Formula Capital
HN	Higher Needs
LAC	Looked After Children

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