

Bolton Schools Forum News

Spring Term 2017

National Funding Formula Up-date

This section of my Spring News Report concerns an up-date on the current situation regarding the ensuing new National system of funding for schools. There are two ongoing consultations. Firstly, there is one regarding the Schools block and Central Services block. Secondly, the other is regarding the High Needs block. There is also a transition period from 2018 to 2019 when funding is directly calculated nationally but allocated via local formula. The formula becomes final from 2019-2020 when funding is directly calculated nationally. Cash for maintained schools will still be received by L.A.'s.

Continued Up-date – Central Block

There will be a new Central Services block from 2018-2019. This will comprise the current Central Services block (e.g. admissions, historic commitments, etc.) Also, local authorities will continue performing the duties held for both maintained schools and academies (retained duties as part of the Education Services Grant). De-delegation will cease from 2019 so services need to be fully traded (e.g. libraries and Museum services, Union duties, FSM eligibility checking, Maternity, Partnerships, CLEAPSS).

Up-date-High Needs Block

Governors will know, from my earlier Reports, that the High Needs Block is a sum of money needed to finance children who have extreme and varied difficulties. The money needed to fund this group of children comes from the Dedicated Schools Grant. Over a number of years the pressures on this money has been growing. The total pressure has been estimated to be £2 in 2016-17. This sum is needed to address the following – 2016-17 in year pressure and the repayment of the 2015/16 deficit. A group has been formed (led by Tony Birch) to consider the costs of future provision. This group includes 2 Primary Head teachers, 2 Secondary Head Teachers, 1 Special Head Teacher, 2 Parent representatives and 1 Governor.

Insurance – Buildings

The insurance scheme, concerning school buildings, has recently been re-valued. Due to the increased values, the insurance costs have increased. For some primary schools, this increase is between £1,500 and £4,000 for some schools. The increased charges will be implemented in 2016/2017.

Start Well Service

This new Service is aimed at transforming Early Years and Childcare, Children's Centres and Family Support Services. These changes are in response to savings and efficiencies targets. Further, these changes are to ensure integrated and evidence-based services. There will be 7 Start Well sites with appropriate linked sites. These will be situated in current buildings. There will also be 9 buildings and relevant schools, which will be linked and established as School Partnerships. The emphasis of this change was to transform but also to increase targeted-area provision which would lead to improved outcomes. Early Years Education and Learning roles will work as part of multi-agency teams to focus on improving outcomes for the most vulnerable, and further develop a traded CPD offer for early years providers, schools and academies.



Contact with the Forum

Via the Clerk to the Forum:

Mr. Ian Mullholland (Tel- 01204 331037)

Via the Council's web site- <http://governorexchange.boltonlea.org.uk/schools-forum---governance-portal>

Via the Governor Services office.

Mike Doyle, Chair of the Bolton Schools Forum