

## **Fair Funding Changes 2014/15**

### **Sparsity and Lump Sum**

From April 2014 there will now be different Lump Sums for Primary and Secondary schools. The proposed Lump Sum for Primary will be £98,268 and £175,000 for Secondary.

It was decided that Norfolk will use the new Sparsity funding factor. Primary schools that meet the criteria will received a Lump Sum of £14,750, secondary schools will receive a lump sum of £100,000.

Each school has a sparsity distance calculated by the Department of education (DFE), which is the average distance that pupils live from their second nearest school, this only includes pupils who are attending their nearest school.

The criteria in Norfolk for sparsity funding are:

A primary school with fewer than 50 pupils and an average distance greater than or equal to 2 miles.

A secondary school with fewer than 505 pupils and an average distance greater than or equal to 3 miles.

### **Low Cost High Incidence SEN Data Change**

The DFE data to be used for prior attainment is changing slightly for both the primary and secondary sectors from 2014/15.

After considering the options and feedback, it has been decided that the current total level of funding for Low Cost High Incidence SEN should be maintained, and the amount per pupil adjusted to incorporate the changes.

### **Primary**

A new Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) was introduced in September 2012 and the first assessments using the new profile took place in the summer of 2013. In 2014/15, for the cohort that has moved into KS1, pupils will qualify for the prior attainment factor where they have not achieved a 'good level of development'. This will include all those who have not achieved the expected level of development in all 12 prime areas of learning as well as maths and literacy.'

In practice this means that from 2014/15 there will be a mixed data set used in Norfolk for funding LCHI SEN of primary aged pupils, based in year 1 who did not achieve a good level of development, and pupils in other year groups who achieve fewer than 78 points in the old – style EYFSP.

## **Secondary**

In 2014/15 , pupils will qualify for prior attainment funding if they fail to achieve a level 4 or higher in English or Maths.

## **Amalgamation Protection**

A new funding protection is being added to the 2014/15 budget share for schools that have been recently amalgamated.

From 2014/15, the formula will protect two merging schools so that they keep 85% of the two lump sums for the next financial year in which they merge.

## **Exceptional Premises Factor**

Norfolk has made an application to the DFE, and received approval, for the use of an additional premises factor for schools that meet the significant (greater than 1% of school's budget) cost criteria. Such costs must affect less than 5% of the schools (including academies) in the authority.

Examples of the types of costs permitted are:

- Rents
- Joint use of leisure facilities by contractual agreement
- Hire of PE Facilities

Most of the 6 primary schools that are to receive additional funding through the premises factor are currently protected by Minimum Funding Guarantee which includes their former Hire of Facilities funding, the level of which would be reduced by any additional allocation made. The effect of this is that although those schools budgets may not change overall in 2014/15, they will have a more stable budget in the longer term.

## **Minimum Funding Guarantee/Funding Cap**

The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) will continue to operate in 2014/15 budget share at the same levels as for 2013/14 , minus 1.5%. The level of protection is set by the DFE and applies only to the schools block DSG.

The MFG protects schools at 98.5% of their prior year per-pupil funding level, so that the impact of funding formula changes are reduced where those changes might otherwise have had a significant and immediate impact on a schools budget.

The DFE are allowing overall gains for individual schools to be capped or scaled back in 2014/15 so that the MFG is affordable, this is currently estimated to be 1.3% for 2014/15.

### **Swimming Pool Charges**

The same arrangements for 2013/14 will continue into 2014/15. The charge will increase to £5.88 hr per group of 20, for a visiting school, based on the hosts school's swimming allocation 1.5% MFG loss each year.

The local authority will continue to process the charges between schools and academies on a termly basis if requested to do so by the host school (the school with the swimming pool).

### **De-delegated Services and Central Funds**

#### **Schools with Falling Roll Fund**

Based on the feedback from schools, Schools Forum voted against a fund for schools with falling rolls.

#### **Growth Fund**

Schools forum voted to continue with a growth fund, £800,000 is to be held centrally for schools meeting the below criteria.

- A) Growth has been identified by the authority as required in the area for the following academic year. I.e. a comparison of numbers between the two October counts.
  - B) Growth must be the greater of 10% of a year group or 5 pupils and will be funded at 7/12 of Basic Pupil Entitlement
  - C) Growth for an additional year group or class will be given at 7/12 of the Pupil Admission number.
- E.g. A school is increasing from an intake of 30 pupils to 60 pupils p.a.- school will therefore qualify for 30x7/12 AWPA

### **De-delegation**

Schools Forum voted to continue with de-delegation of the below services for Primary and Secondary schools.

#### **Staff Costs**

Staff costs relating to redeployment, safeguarding duties, maternity cover, supply cover for special circumstances, suspended staff and additional costs relating to disabled staff.

### Licences/Subscriptions

Funding for licences that are paid centrally by the Local Authority and Education Funding Agency. Such as the Copyright Licensing Agency and the Music Publishers Association Licence.

### Contingencies

A central contingency for unforeseen circumstances of £1m (£764K net of academies, at the time of voting).

### Free School Meal Eligibility

A central service for checking free school meal eligibility data

## **High Needs Block**

### **Specialist Resource Base Review**

The future of SRB provision in Norfolk was discussed at Norfolk County Council Cabinet on Monday 4th November 2013.

The recommendation which was agreed by Cabinet was to adopt a hybrid option of option A, status Quo and Option B2, partial decommissioning with the local authority retaining funding for remodelling the service. We anticipate that the majority of SRBs will be offered a new contract either to continue delivering their current specialism or to switch to a different specialism. However, this decision does mean that commissioners will decommission some provision on an individual basis where it is not providing value for money or improving outcomes for pupils, or where schools are unwilling to work to the new service specification and contract. The Schools' Forum, which is the statutory representative body for all state funded education providers in Norfolk, was in agreement with this recommendation which was made to Cabinet.

### **What are the next steps?**

The SRB Review and Recommissioning Team will be writing to SRB host school Headteachers and chairs of Governors outlining the decision by Cabinet and the implications this is likely to have on their SRBs. This will take place in the next 7-10 working days.

The team will also be in touch with Headteachers / Lead teachers to arrange meetings / workshops as appropriate.

### **Where can I view a copy of the report that went to Cabinet?**

To see a copy of the report that went to Cabinet please click on the agenda 4/1/2/103 link (p40)

[http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/Council\\_and\\_democracy/Your\\_Council/Committees/DisplayResultsSection/Papers/index.htm?Committee=Cabinet](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/Council_and_democracy/Your_Council/Committees/DisplayResultsSection/Papers/index.htm?Committee=Cabinet)