

## **Fair Funding Changes 2015/16**

### **Additional Funding for Norfolk Schools**

The Department for Education has announced that they will be allocating an additional £390m of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) to Local Authorities in 2015/16.

Norfolk will receive an estimated £18m, based on 2013/14 pupil numbers.

The extra funding is based on a methodology of 'Minimum Funding Levels' for DSG. It compares the average amounts that Local Authorities currently allocate within their formula for pupil characteristics including the Basic Per Pupil Entitlement, Deprivation, Looked After Children, English as an Additional Language and Low Prior Attainment as well as the Lump Sum and Sparsity factors. Those below the average rate, which includes Norfolk, will receive an increased amount.

Local Authorities are not required to distribute the funding via the minimum funding levels.

The extra funding will be used to remove the funding cap which is currently +1.45%, from the funding formula, to allow those schools that should have benefited under the new funding system, to feel the full benefit. The remaining funding will be distributed via the pupil led funding factors of Basic per Pupil Entitlement, English as an Additional Language, Deprivation and Low Cost High Incidence SEN.

Some schools currently have a large Minimum Funding guarantee, which will not be offset in full by their share of the new DSG funding. These schools will experience an overall funding decrease in 2015/16, which will be in line with previous budget forecasts.

The full £18m will be distributed to schools. The proposal to move £2m of the £18m from the Schools block to the High needs block to support Emotional Health and Well Being in schools was not agreed, based on the divided opinion at the consultation workshops and the survey results. It was also felt by Schools forum that the plans were too high level and needed further development. There was a strong feeling that this is a very important area and that schools were best placed to understand their local needs and focus on local solutions.

### **Changes to the Sparsity Factor**

The DFE have changed the methodology for calculating the Sparsity factor. Sparsity is an optional factor that Norfolk opted to use when it was introduced in 2014/15. Sparsity will be calculated based on average year group size instead of the overall size of the school. It was decided that we should mirror the current funding allocation paid to schools as closely as possible and that we should continue with this factor.

### **Amalgamated school Protection**

It was agreed to continue the protection of amalgamated schools fixed sum at 70% of the full amount for a second year, to support them during their transition to a single lump sum.

### **Minimum Funding Guarantee**

The DFE's Minimum funding guarantee will continue to apply to Schools block funding as in previous years at minus 1.5% per pupil excluding the following items;

- Nursery funding factor
- Post-16 funding factor
- The 2015/16 'Lump sum' including additional lump sums for amalgamated schools
- The 2015-16 Sparsity factor
- Rates

## **Swimming Charges**

The extra £18m DSG funding means that all schools now have the full funding to purchase swimming within their basic per pupil entitlement.

From 1 April 2015, schools are free to buy their swimming from the swimming provider and pool of their choice, paid for from their own budget share.

The Local Authority will no longer be administering the charging between schools for swimming or paying for schools to attend community pools.

Schools with pools still have funding protected within their budgets at 2012/13 prices less 3 years of Minimum Funding Guarantee at 1.5% per year. This will enable schools to have a funding cushion whilst moving towards a sustainable free market for swimming.

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

### **Growth Fund**

Schools forum voted to continue with a growth fund, £950,000 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, and

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. This includes the Performing Rights Society (PRS), Phonographic Performance limited (PPL), Norfolk Governors Network Annual Grant and the Consortium of Local education Authorities for the Provision of Science Services (CLEAPSS).

### **Contingencies**

A central contingency for unforeseen circumstances of £850K, this does not include Academies.

### **Free School Meal Eligibility**

A central service for checking free school meal eligibility data