

SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM
17 January 2018

Directorate of Children Learning and Skills

Central Schools Services Block 2018-19

1 Purpose of Report

To make the Forum aware of the final decision by the Department for Education (DfE) to introduce a Central School Services Block (CSSB) from 2018-19 under the National Funding Formula (NFF).

To advise the Forum about the Central Schools Services Block from 2018-19 and approvals required by the Forum.

Background

In 2017-18 schools centrally retained items were part of the schools block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The retained items element of the Education Services Grant (ESG) was moved into the schools block due to the implementation of the NFF being deferred. This funding, which was previously allocated directly to local authorities, supports the council in fulfilling its strategic responsibilities for academies and maintained schools.

The CSSB will be introduced from 2018-19 as the fourth block of the DSG. The CSSB provides funding for Local Authorities to carry out central functions on behalf of pupils in state-funded maintained schools and academies. The block is comprised of two elements; historical commitments which is allocated based on the baselining exercise performed by the DfE in 2017-18 and ongoing responsibilities which are based on a pupil led formula linked to the baselining exercise.

2 Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)

2.1 Schools Forum are asked to approve the central schools services block allocations to the following budgets;

- **Admissions £178,100**

The school admissions budget funds the School Admissions Team. The team is responsible for the LA's school admission processes. This includes co-ordination of the reception and secondary transfer admissions processes. This involves providing all residents who wish to apply with information about the process and an application form, processing all applications received and ensuring all applicants have one offer of a school place on national offer day. The team also co-ordinate in year primary and secondary admissions. Parents moving

into Slough are provided with an application form and are offered a school place as soon as possible, usually within 4 weeks. The team deals with around 6000 applications annually

- **Servicing of Schools Forum £53,055**

The budget for servicing the Schools Forum represents the costs incurred in providing this statutory duty. The authority is required to co-ordinate a minimum of four Schools Forum meetings per year. This budget contributes to the running costs of Schools Forums including any agreed and reasonable expenses for members attending meetings, the costs of producing and distributing papers, costs of room hire and refreshments and for clerking of meetings.

- **LA Safeguarding Childrens Board £30,000**

Contributions to the Safeguarding function adds value to the work of the SCSB and support all schools and academies in their vital work to keep children and young people safe and achieve compliance with Ofsted requirements

- **Virtual School - Head £100,000**

Contributions to the operation of the virtual School has developed the range of the service to create better outcomes for children looked after by Slough . To build the system we have funded training through a large conference, training our new designated teachers (last year 5 this year 42) and running the Designated Teacher meetings. The knowledge of attachment needs through early life trauma for example is now much better understood in the Slough education system. If you get it right for children looked after it has a positive impact from other vulnerable groups. This may even support children not to come into care. It will also improve the OFSTED judgements on Slough schools in respect to vulnerable children.

Also the funding is used to widen and deepen the range of services offered by the Virtual School, where support is available for under 5s, post 16, those in FE and HE. We also have capacity to support schools and carers with SGOs and adopters. We are forging links with Heathrow and developing apprenticeships. The evidence in the Virtual Annual Report is the KPIs have been met and in some cases exceeded.

- **Copyright Licences £124,325**

Negotiated by the Secretary of State for all authorities, schools cannot opt out of these licences;

- Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA)
- Schools Printed Music Licence (SPML)
- Newspaper Licensing Authority (NLA)
- Education Recording Authority (ERA)
- Public Video Streaming Licence (PVSL)
- Motion Picture Licensing Company (MPLC)
- Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL)

- Performing Rights Society (PRS)
 - Mechanical Copyright Protection Society (MCPS)
 - Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI)
- **Education Welfare (ESG) £144,672**
The statutory Education welfare functions include the promotion of good attendance for all children and young people, enforcement duties on behalf of schools and Academies for non attendance and the licensing processes for the employment and engagement in entertainment activities by children and young people. Additional activity includes monitoring of attendance and the early intervention in cases of absence giving cause for concern in schools and academies. EWS performs an essential role in safeguarding and family support. The MASH also includes an Education Welfare Officer.
 - **Asset Management (ESG) £12,818**
Contribution to the services for Education such as the schools building condition survey.
 - **Statutory and Regulatory (ESG) £258,400**
Contributions to the statutory posts of DCS and the Head of the Virtual school for children in care, business support for school improvements and systems for strategic information returns are funded from this contribution together with the provision of training, moderation and monitoring of the administration of statutory tests and assessments

2.2 The CSSB element of DSG settlement is insufficient to cover the expenditure required from this block, as detailed below;

Central Services Schools Block 2018-19

Area	Service	Budget	Allocation	Variance
Contribution to Combined Budgets	LA Safeguarding Childrens Board	30,000		
	Virtual School - Head	100,000		
Historical Cmt sub total		130,000	78,000	-52,000
Servicing of Schools Forum		53,055		
Admissions		178,100		
Copyright Licences		124,325		
Education Welfare (ESG)		144,672		
Asset Management (ESG)		12,818		
Statutory&Regulatory(ESG)		258,400		
Ongoing Cmt Sub Total		771,370	547,000	-224,370
Grand Total		901,370	625,000	-276,370

2.3 After lengthy discussions with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and comprehensive research it was discovered that the central block funding was understated on the 2017-18 baseline return, thus

creating an imbalance between the schools block (SB) allocation and central schools services block (CSSB) allocation in 2018-19. The following actions are put forward as a way to remedy the allocation between blocks.

- Transfer £124,325 for licences from the SB into the CSSB.
- Transfer £52,000 for the variance on historical items from the SB to the CSSB
- Reduce remaining budgets within the CSSB by £100,045

All the above actions together will facilitate the balancing of the budget to allocation.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Forum Agrees ;

- the budget transfers from the Schools Block to the Central Schools Services Block
- the allocations of the following budgets within the CSSB as outlined below;
 - Admissions
 - Servicing of Schools Forum
 - Copyright Licences (as negotiated by the Secretary of State)
 - Education Welfare (ESG)
 - Asste management (ESG)
 - Statory & Regulatory (ESG)
 - Contribution to combined budgets
 - LA Safeguarding Childrens Board
 - Virtual School Head

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 Where funding for central services is not approved alternative arrangements may need to be put in place for service delivery either by provision through an Service level Agreement (SLA) or through schools resourcing the elements individually.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

5.1 Further detailed information on the central block formula is available within the “Central school services block national funding formula: technical note” which is available on the DfE website;

[Central Schools Services Block Technical Note](#)

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

6.1 Monitoring Officer

The relevant legal provisions are contained within the main body of this report.

6.2 Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Resources

The financial implications of the report are outlined in the supporting information.

6.3 Access Implications

There are no access implications.

7 CONSULTATION

Not applicable OR Principal Groups Consulted

Contact for further information

Susan Woodland

susanwoodland@slough.gov.uk