

Schools Funding Forum Executive Meeting

Charles Babbage Room, Oakwood House

30 September 2013 (pm)

Minutes of Meeting – Review of Non Delegated DSG Budgets

Present: John Dennis (Chair), Phil Sayer, Ben Cooper, Roland Gooding, Mike Smith, Keith Abbott, Simon Pleace and Ian Hamilton

Apologies: none

1	<p>Virtual Schools Kent</p> <p>The group raised the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not clear whether the team support OLA LACs or just Kent LACs • Is this the only funding the service receives? The report suggests that this funding is paying for leadership posts only. Are there any other staff within VSK? • Appeared to be differences between the content of the report and the content on their website • Interested to receive further information on panels and forums that the team attend and also on the training that they provide <p>The group thought that it would be really useful if Tony Doran could attend the next meeting to provide answers to these questions</p>	<p>Action</p> <p>Keith</p>
2	<p>School Family Liaison Officers</p> <p>The group discussion focused on the equity of funding distribution and the lack of transparency over funding decisions. The group were aware that some schools fund their own FLO without any financial assistance from the Local Authority.</p> <p>It was suggested that one option that could be explored is delegating this funding to all schools through the local formula using the deprivation factor.</p> <p>The group felt that it would be helpful if Mairead MacNeil could attend the next meeting.</p>	<p>Keith</p>
3	<p>Children and Families Preventative Services</p> <p>The group discussion focused on the educational benefits of this funding and also on the schools role in the CAF process. Concerns were raised that this funding was being used to support non-educational</p>	

	<p>activities e.g. troubled families.</p> <p>The group felt that it would be helpful if Mairead MacNeil could attend the next meeting.</p>	Keith
4	<p>Early Intervention and Prevention Services</p> <p>The group felt that the only educational benefit within the outcome section of the report was this funding helped reduce exclusions. The group would like to understand how this funding helps achieve this outcome and also requested that evidence is provided to back this up.</p>	Simon
5	<p>Central Overheads</p> <p>General discussion about the cost of central overheads took place and the group asked whether the LA could obtain other LA comparisons. This information is not publically available but Keith agreed to raise with the South East Deputies who he is meeting on 8th October.</p>	Keith
6	<p>Schools Delegated Contingency</p> <p>The group noted the use of this funding and requested an update at the next full Forum meeting in December.</p>	Ian
7	<p>Independent Non Maintained Special Schools</p> <p>The group raised concern about the current expenditure on this budget line having noted the significant increase over the last two financial years. The group requested the following additional information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of anticipated price increases for 2014/15 • Details of expenditure incurred by the LA on transporting pupils to these independent schools <p>Keith also raised the possibility of having to have a discussion with the full Forum about how this pressure is funded in the future. It was agreed that a copy of the recent budget monitoring report for ELS, which was presented to the Education Cabinet Committee on 27 September, should be sent out to all Forum members as it provide a useful update on the issue and the possible implications for all schools.</p>	<p>Simon</p> <p>Ian</p>
8	<p>Centrally Retained Overheads</p> <p>Keith explained the use of this budget to meet unplanned and unexpected pressures.</p>	

Date of next meeting: 11 October (assuming Tony and Mairead can attend)