

Schools Funding Forum Executive Meeting

Charles Babbage Room, Oakwood House

26 November 2013 – 15:30 to 17:30

Minutes of Meeting – Review of Non Delegated DSG Budgets

Present: John Dennis (Chair), Roland Gooding, Ian Hamilton, Tony Doran - HT Virtual School Kent (Item 1 Only), Mairead MacNeil- Director for Specialist Children's Services, Karen Graham - Assistant Director of Children Services - South Kent Area, Nikki Patient- Integrated Processes Team Leader Families & Social Care and Ann Woodberry – Manager of FLO Support Services

Apologies: Ben Cooper, Mike Smith, Keith Abbott, Simon Pleace

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. <i>Answer – Both OLA LACs or just Kent LACs</i> • 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? <i>Answer – There is other funding , the total budget is £2m</i> • Appeared to be differences between the content of the report and the content on their website. <i>Answer – Were unable to recall the precise detail of the question, Tony said he would be happy to provide this information if more detail was provided.</i> • Interested to receive further information on panels and forums that the team attend and also on the training that they provide. <i>Answer – A long list of panels and forums was provided, included in the list were Adoption Panels, County SEN Panels, JRAP and Safeguarding.</i> 	Action
2	<p>School Family Liaison Officers</p> <p>Funding is allocated to schools and academies using a formula and local knowledge.</p> <p>Formula factors used were MOSAIC, FSMs and pupil numbers.</p> <p>Schools/academies could receive one of two lump sums depending on the size of the school/academy. The amount of funding is a part contribution to the FLOs salary and the school/academy funds the remaining element.</p>	

	<p>Concerns were raised around the 7/8 Special schools receiving the funding as their needs led formula should already meet this cost.</p> <p>Information was requested that provided details of the schools/academies and amounts received, so that it could be matched against their revenue reserves.</p> <p>The executive liked the additional flexibility that the devolved budget offered in respect of the ability to determined factors in the distribution of the funding that would not be available through the national funding formula. A possible future development would be for the SFF to ratify the factors used to distribute the funding.</p> <p>In respect of transparency the executive requested that the formula method for distribution be published on the KELSI website.</p>	<p>Anne Woodbury /Ian Hamilton</p> <p>Anne Woodbury</p>
3.	<p>Children and Families Preventative Services</p> <p>A comprehensive explanation of the CAF process was provided to the group.</p> <p>One key indicator provided was that the number of Teaching lead professionals has reduced from 67% to 51%.</p> <p>A case example was given that demonstrated the improvement in attendance for a pupil at a school/academy.</p> <p>The question was asked if statistics could be provided for education outcomes. There was a willingness to provide this information, however the current computer system is not conducive to providing this information and it would need to be a manual process.</p> <p>2014-15 will see a new system in place which is the leading system of its type in the country and one of its features is the improved reporting parameters. It was agreed that in the future a set of reporting education reporting criteria would be agreed and information would be provided on this basis.</p>	Nikki Patient
4.	<p>Early Intervention and Prevention Services</p> <p>Unfortunately the officer responsible for this element of the budget was unable to attend. Officers at the meeting agreed to provide the Executive with an example of a Porch Light referral and the interventions provided.</p>	Nikki Patient
5	<p>All other matters arising from the previous meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Overheads – Keith Abbot is still in the process of collecting information from other senior finance officers in the South East, so that some form of bench marking can be applied. Independent Non Maintained Special Schools – A breakdown the transport costs was circulated around the Executive members. A 	Keith Abbott

	<p>further request was made for the number of pupil to be included as well. The estimated increase in Independent Fees for 2013-14 and 2014-15 is between 1% and 2%.</p>	Simon Pleace
6	<p>Any Other Business (AOB)</p> <p>Overall the Executive were satisfied with the answers to the questions raised and recommended that no changes to budget allocation should be made for 2014-15.</p> <p>The view of the executive was that this should be revisited again in 2014-15. The key points to the review were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) how do you measure the impact on education and 2) what is/are the measurable comparators for impact on education if the funding was targeted in a different way. <p>The purpose of re-visiting these budgets next year is to build up a clearer picture of the services delivered from these DSG budgets.</p>	