

Message sent on behalf of Matt Dunkley CBE - Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education.

To: Headteacher and School Business Manager

Dear Colleague,

School Budgets

I am pleased to inform you that the 2019-20 Delegated Local Funding Formula (LFF) and indicative Pupil Premium and Devolved Formula Capital budget templates are now available on KELSI for all Local Authority (LA) Maintained Schools via the following link: [2019-20 School Budgets](#). We have also provided a separate budget template for Kent Academies which shows details of the relevant payments we are responsible for, this can be accessed on KELSI via the following link: [Academy Template](#) 2019-20.

Local Funding Arrangements

As part of the LFF consultation held in Autumn 2017 the LA set indicative funding rates for the financial year 2019-20. We are pleased to confirm that we have fully implemented these rates and in addition to this a Split Site factor will be included in the LFF from April 2019.

National Funding Formula (NFF) and 1% High Needs Block (HNB) Transfer

The Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) have further delayed the introduction of a Schools Hard NFF by confirming that a Soft NFF will still be in operation in 2020-21. It is still the long-term aim of the ESFA to introduce a Hard NFF for schools, but no details have been provided on future funding settlements, other than further guidance will be issued as part of the 2019 Comprehensive Spending Review that is due to take place in Autumn 2019. In the absence of any information on when the Hard NFF will be implemented, we believe it is unwise for schools to make any assumptions regarding any additional funding they may receive.

As you will be aware the LA consulted with all LA Maintained Schools and Kent Academies in the Autumn 2018 about transferring funding from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Schools Block (SB) to the DSG HNB to help meet the considerable Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) pressures faced by Kent and many Other Local Authorities in the country.

Schools (in their response to the consultation) and the Schools' Funding Forum (SFF) at its meeting on 30 November 2018 strongly supported a transfer of 1% from the SB to the HNB: this was made up of the 0.5% transferred in 2018-19 and a further 0.5% relating to 2019-20. LAs proposing to make transfers over 0.5% are required to seek approval from the Secretary of State (SoS) and therefore an application to seek the necessary permission for a 1% transfer was submitted by the LA on 30 November 2018.

On the 16th December the Government announced nationally that additional funding for SEND was being allocated to LAs and where LAs had requested a transfer of greater than 0.5%, consideration should be given to whether this amount should still be transferred. Part of the prescribed review process set by the ESFA was for LAs to consult with the SFF. An additional SFF meeting was arranged on the 15 January 2019 where again strong support from SFF members was given to transfer the full 1%.

Kent received notification from the ESFA on the 13 February 2019 that the SoS had agreed Kent's application to the transfer 1% between from the SB to the HNB.

We would like to provide complete assurance to schools in Kent that the request to transfer 1% from the SB to the HNB was not taken lightly and significant deliberation was taken in considering the best overall outcome for Young People of Kent.

Details on the rationale for supporting the 1% transfer can be gained by reading the draft minutes for the SFF meetings held on the 30 November 2018 and 15 January 2019 (links to relevant documents are shown below).

We have produced two separate guidance notes explaining the changes to Kent school funding in more detail, one for LA [Maintained Schools](#) and one for [Kent Academies](#).

Maintained schools are required to submit their three-year financial budget plan to the LA by 31 May 2019. In the absence of guidance from the ESFA for future years funding settlements, after careful consideration the LA are advising LA schools to estimate future years funding based on a 0% MFG. More detailed guidance on this and teacher pay and pension increases is provided in the maintained schools guidance notes. The three year financial planning tool is interactive and allows schools to provide their own pupil forecasts for both 2020-21 and 2021-22 years.

If you experience difficulties when setting the budget for your school, please contact Ian Hamilton on 03000 415 415 or email via schoolsfinancialservices@theeducationpeople.org

The detailed budget guidance notes accessible on KELSI include a list of contact names for specific queries. Please contact Simon Pleace, Outgoing Finance Business Partner on 03000 416947 or email via simon.pleace@kent.gov.uk if you have any questions on overall policy issues.

Yours sincerely

Matt Dunkley CBE

Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education

Helpful links

- [SFF 30 November 2019- Paper Item 4 – School Funding Arrangements 2019-20](#)
- [Draft SFF minutes 30 November 2018](#)
- [Draft SFF Minutes 15 January 2019](#)