

Agenda Item 6

Report to: Schools Forum

Date: 29th September 2017

Title of Report: Funding for Standards & Learning Effectiveness Service

By: Elizabeth Funge, Head of Education Improvement

Purpose of Report: To provide information on the expenditure for school improvement

1. Background

1.1 At a previous Schools Forum (13th January), it was agreed that information would be brought to Schools Forum to provide updates on the various central budgets. Below is a timeline of when the updates were scheduled on the Schools Forum agenda:

- 17th March – Servicing Schools Forum expenditure
- 19th May – Admissions (meeting cancelled)
- 14th July – Admissions (deferred from May)
- 29th September – SLES (deferred from July)
- 24th November – Early Help

1.2 This report provides information on the expenditure that relates to the School Improvement and Support function delivered by the LA which has a 2017/18 budget allocation of £1,276,600.

2. Summary of Information

2.1 The table below provides a summary of the expenditure relating to school improvement. Further detail showing what aspects of work are within each of these expenditure headings can be seen on Appendix 1.

| Overview of expenditure | |
|---|-------------------|
| Primary external adviser programme | 247,300 |
| Key stage 4 | 200,000 |
| Connexions: tracking & NEET reduction | 457,600 |
| Safeguarding | 10,000 |
| Governor Services | 22,500 |
| EIPs: to meet local school improvement priorities | 90,000 |
| Support for leadership development | 35,000 |
| Core services | 214,200 |
| Total | £1,276,600 |

2.2 The funding for the **External Adviser Programme** and **Key Stage 4** enables the Local Authority to fulfil its statutory duty to know our schools and has supported

improvement in pupil outcomes across primary and secondary schools.

- 2.3 The funding for **Connexions** supports the LA's contract with Medway Youth Trust (MYT) which supports our statutory responsibilities in relation to the participation of 16 & 17 year olds into education and training
- 2.3 The funding for **Safeguarding** makes a small contribution to a largely self-funded service that enables the Local Authority to fulfil its statutory duty for safeguarding.
- 2.4 The funding for **Governor Services** makes a small contribution to the delivery of this service which supports effective governance and clerking in the county's primary and secondary schools.
- 2.5 The funding for the **EIPs** goes directly to schools to support collaboration and has enabled schools to develop capacity for school to school support and the partnerships are increasingly becoming the vehicle for the delivery of school improvement.
- 2.6 The funding for **Leadership** supports a range of activities that ensure effective leadership at all levels in our schools and academies including headteacher recruitment and induction, aspiring headteachers' programme, and deputy headteacher network.
- 2.7 The funding for **Core services** makes a contribution to the management costs for all of these activities and other related activities. It represents a contribution of approximately 6% to the overall budget for staffing and overheads.
- 2.8 The DSG funding provided for school improvement sits alongside a significant contribution by the Local Authority recognising the shared responsibility for pupil outcomes in East Sussex schools. The overall resource for school improvement is approximately funded one quarter from the DSG and three quarters by the Local Authority. The Local Authority targets this resource effectively and has secured improvement to outcomes at the same time as improving efficiency over the last few years. The Local Authority continues to work closely with school leaders to ensure that its programmes are effective and to build further capacity for a self-improving system led by schools.
- 2.10 The introduction of the National Funding Formula (NFF) will impact the funding that is available for these activities. Consequently the LA is reviewing all aspects of education planning and school improvement to identify whether / how funding would be secured to continue provision for 2018/19. Should DSG funding no longer be available, the LA would review the services provided and resources available to operate within the reduced funding envelope.

3.0 Recommendation

Members of Schools Forum are asked to note the information.

Appendix 1

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| <p>Primary external adviser programme</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a funded programme of support and intervention for maintained and academy primary schools • Every school is provided with an annual school performance review with further funded support for category 3 and 4 schools; option for other schools to purchase additional support • Has supported significant improvement in Ofsted outcomes: 92% of primary schools judged good or better by Ofsted (above national average) |
| <p>Key stage 4</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a funded programme of support and intervention for maintained and academy secondary schools which includes: consultant headteacher support; PP/SEND reviews; leadership development; Ofsted preparation and networks for subject/senior leaders • Has supported improvement in secondary outcomes: progress 8 significantly above national average; two thirds of schools improved against the basics measure • High performing schools have sustained or improved outcomes since last year; reduction from 6 to 2 schools below floor target from 2015 to 2016 |
| <p>Connexions</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESSC commission third sector provider Medway Youth Trust (MYT) to provide the Youth Employability Service (YES); robust systems in place to monitor their performance and impact via our Aspire database system. • MYT work with all our 16 & 17 year old who are NEET, at risk of becoming NEET, or are not known. They also work very closely with schools to ensure young people make a successful transition to post 16 learning • We have secured year on year improvements in participation, with 16yrs old at 96.9%, above national and south east and 17yr olds at 88.6%, slightly below national, but above south east. • We have also significantly reduced the number of those recorded as situation 'not known' (we have one of the lowest % nationally: out of a total cohort of 5,430 16 year olds, only 15 were recorded as situation 'Not Known' in 2017) |
| <p>Safeguarding</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSG funding provides a small contribution to the overall operational running costs for safeguarding training and reviews provided to all maintained and academy schools across the county. This activity generates income that contributes to staff and other costs • The SLES Safeguarding offer to schools has been considerably strengthened in the past 2 years, including model policies and guidance documents for schools and DSL networks |

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| | <p>across all EIPs. Intelligence on schools' safeguarding has increased enormously and enabled early intervention to support improvements in practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding was not a limiting judgement in Ofsted outcomes for any schools during the 16/17 academic year that received LA support for safeguarding |
| Governor Services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DSG provides a small contribution to the overall operational running costs for governor services • The leadership and management Ofsted outcomes demonstrate an increase from 88.1% to 91.6% of all schools achieving good or outstanding between 15/16 and 16/17 academic years (last up dated in April 17) |
| EIPs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EIPs receive DSG funding to support the delivery of their action plans and production of data on the performance of their group of schools. There is an established annual programme of planning, review and assessment of impact • Over the last few years they have focused on a number of key school improvement priorities and built capacity for school to school support <p>Examples of impact include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34 lead professionals for Maths and English trained and deployed; 2017 outcomes show significant improvement • 46 lead moderators trained and deployed • 6 School and college staff trained to deliver Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Courses • Wealden EIP: integrated approach to working on improving maths outcomes. Across the EIP maths outcomes improved significantly in all schools that took part in the project • Eastbourne EIP: project focused on cohorts of FSM pupils in individual schools with low outcomes for reading. All the targeted schools saw 100% of children reaching the expected level in reading |
| Leadership development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports a range of activity including headteacher induction, recruitment & retention, DHT courses and mentoring for new headteachers • This work has led to marked improvement in headteacher and teacher recruitment particularly to rural and coastal areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the past year recruited 13 headteachers • Secured interim leaders for all other vacant positions • From Sept 2017 – no headteacher vacancies |
| Core services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSG makes a small contribution to core services for SLES in order to provide management for the areas identified above |