

London Borough of Enfield

Schools Forum
Education Resources Group

Meeting Date 14 July 2021
Meeting Date 22 June 2021

Subject: De-Delegated Services for Maintained Schools for 2021/22 and 2022/23

Cabinet Member: Cllr Uddin

Report Number: 11

Item Number: No 4d

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. This report provides an update on:
 - The central services where funding was to be de-delegated for 2021/22 as agreed by the maintained schools representatives on the Forum;
 - The central services available for de-delegation for 2022/23.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The maintained schools' representatives on the Schools Forum are asked to:
 - (a) For 2021/22, consider and confirm how the shortfall in the provision of long service awards should be addressed;
 - (b) Note and comment on the central services available for de-delegation for 2022/23.

BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

3. The regulations enable local authorities to seek approval for money to be de-delegated from maintained schools to provide general duties that were previously funded from the Education Support Grant. The approval for de-delegation is required on an annual basis. De-delegated funds are a deduction from maintained schools' budget shares, after calculation of Schools Block allocations. It should be noted that academies are not included in this process and may buy back these services from the Local Authority from their allocated budget share.

CURRENT POSITION

4. The process for this financial year began at this time last year and included discussions and presentation of impact analysis to the Education Resources Group and the Schools Forum. Each sector discussed separately the services available for de-delegation. For 2021/22, the services for de-delegation which were finally signed off by the two sectors were as follows:

Service	Primary	Secondary
Licenses & Subs – CLEAPPS	Yes	Yes
General Data Protection Regulation	Yes	Yes
Free School Meals Eligibility	Yes	Yes
Union Duties	Yes	Yes
NQT Recruitment Support & Applicant Tracking System	To August 21	Yes
School Improvement Service	To August 21	Yes
Support for Schools in Difficulties	To August 21	Yes
Long Service Awards	To August 21	Yes

Updates from Services 2021/22

- (a) **Union duties:**

In line with the conditions agreed as part of the de-delegation process, Union representatives have met with the headteacher groups and are developing an SLA for this service.

(b) General Data Protection Regulation:

The Forum is advised that a new permanent Data Protection Officer (DPO) has started and will be joined by a Deputy DPO. The new DPO brings extensive school experience and knowledge. The DPO will continue to:

- inform and advise schools and its staff about its obligations to comply with the UK GDPR and other data protection laws
- monitor compliance with the UK GDPR and other data protection laws, and with the schools data protection policies. This includes:
 - raising awareness of data protection issues
 - training staff
 - advise on, and to monitor, data protection impact assessments
 - be the first point of contact for the ICO and for individuals whose data is processed (staff, parents, children etc).

(c) Long Service Awards:

The awards are issued during the financial year after the member of staff has achieved 25 years of service. The Service has advised that the £2,300 de-delegated will not be sufficient to meet the cost of paying the long service award if the same number (30) as in previous years are eligible for an award. The current provision will only fund half this number.

The Service continues to be contacted by staff from schools to seek an update on when they will be eligible for a long service award.

The Service has highlighted that removal of de-delegation will create an administrative burden for both the Council and school staff. Currently, schools are only charged for the actual amount provided to their member of staff and not the costs associated with administration and management of the awards.

As with all de-delegated services, the initial funding was held by the Council to pay for these types of services, but with the changes to the funding regulations, the funding was taken from the Council and delegated to schools. The Council's view is that removal of long service awards is not viable because it will create an inequity between staff working for the Council and schools.

The options which are available are:

- To reinstate de-delegation, which will retain equity between staff working for the Council and schools and also reduce the administrative burden.
- To amend the Scheme for Financing for 2022/23 so the Council can charge the cost of the awards through the advances. This will continue to be a burden on Council and school staff. It will also continue to create friction where schools question paying for a member of staff who has just moved to the school.

The Education Resources Group were asked to provide their views on how to manage the shortfall for the current year and consider arrangements for next year. The primary members advised they would seek the views of primary headteachers and secondary headteachers confirmed that they had supported the continuation of long service award.

FOR CONSIDERATION FOR 2022/23

5. The services for which de-delegation is being sought are listed below and this information was shared with Education Resources Group.

Table 2: De-delegated Services

Areas of Funding	2021/22 De-delegated Budget
	£
Licenses & Subs – CLEAPPS	4,012
Free School Meals Eligibility	28,890
NQT Recruitment Support & Applicant Tracking System	8,566
Union Duties	79,243
School Improvement Service	183,271
Support for Schools in Difficulties	66,156
General Data Protection Regulation	77,739
Long Service Awards	2,302
Total	450,179

The Education Resources Group was advised of the timeline for approving de-delegated services for 2022/23. The timeline requires initial views of the Group in the early part of the Autumn term with final approval by the maintained schools representatives on the Forum at the December meeting of the Forum.

The sector representatives confirmed that they would share the information with their sector to seek the views of the headteachers in their sector.

Recommendation

6. There are two issues for the maintained schools' representatives on the Forum to consider and advise on how to progress:
 1. How should the shortfall for the current year (2021/22) be met;
 2. The options available for the coming year (2022/23).