
Subject: Central Services School Block and De-delegation

Cabinet Member: Cllr Abdullahi

Report Number: 22

Item: 5d

Purpose of Report

1. This report:
 - provides information on the planned use of the Central Schools Services block (CSSB);
 - requires the maintained schools representatives to consider and agree the central services available for de-delegation.

Recommendations

2. (a) The Forum is asked to confirm their approval for the continuation of the central services detailed in paragraph 5 and listed in Table 1.

(b) The maintained Schools Forum members are asked to consider and approve the de-delegated services as detailed in paragraph 6 and listed in Table 2. It is recommended if any service is not agreed for de-delegation, then the change is implemented from September 2023.

Relevance to the Council's Corporate Plan

3. The Council has oversight and responsibility for statutory duties for all schools and de-delegated services for maintained schools. To enable the Council to deliver statutory duties to all schools, it is important to maintain the use of resources listed in this report.

The changes in school funding regulations has led to removal of all funding to support the Council's responsibilities for maintained schools. To access any funding from the Schools Block to support these functions, maintained schools must agree to de-delegate funding. If this is not forthcoming, then the Council will expect individual schools to take over responsibility for these functions, but there will be a cost to the Council for monitoring and any follow up actions to ensure this was being done. Any change in services being de-delegated could lead to redundancies resulting in additional costs for the Council.

Consideration for the Schools Forum

4. Background

- 4.1 In previous years, the Schools Forum has been provided with information on the central services funded from the DSG. In line with the regulations, the Forum has then been asked to either confirm or provide a view on the proposed use.

In their latest guidance the DfE has confirmed, for 2023/24, there are no changes to the responsibilities covered by the Central Schools Services block (CSSB).

- 4.2 The CSSB was introduced as part of the school funding reforms and brought together funding for:
 - Retained duties for all schools, academies and free schools element of the Education Services Grant (ESG);
 - Ongoing central statutory functions, such as admissions (for all maintained schools)

- historic commitments for all schools, academies and free schools.

The CSSB does not include funding for the Authority's general regulatory duties for maintained schools that were previously funded from the ESG. These services can continue but have to be provided as de-delegated services. Appendix A provides a summary of the statutory and regulatory duties.

4.3 The DfE has recently published the indicative allocations for 2023/24. The remainder of this report details the allocation and outlines potential changes for 2023/24.

5. Funding

5.1 The CSSB is made up of two elements: statutory duties and historic commitments. For 2023/24, the two elements will be funded as follows:

(a) Statutory Duties:

Funding is allocated to LAs based on a national funding formula. The proxy factors used for formula are pupil numbers and Ever 6 free school meals eligibility.

The per pupil amount for Enfield has increased by 2.55%. However, if pupil numbers recorded on the October 2022 Census decrease at the same rate as October 2021, then the per pupil increase will be less than 1%. As the funding in main is used to fund staff, the increase is not sufficient to meet the cost pressures such as pay awards, etc.

(b) Historic Commitments:

Origins of funding historic commitments were to provide services that benefitted and enabled pupils to continue to access education. Following the introduction of the school funding reforms, this element was removed from the regulations. Since the removal of historic commitments from the regulations, the DfE has implemented a year on year 20% reduction in funding with the view that all funding for historic commitments ceases when the funding reforms are fully implemented or when contractual arrangements such as prudential borrowing come to an end. Children's Services will continue to assess and manage the on-going reduction in funding for historical commitments.

Table 1 details the services the Authority plans to fund from the CSSB.

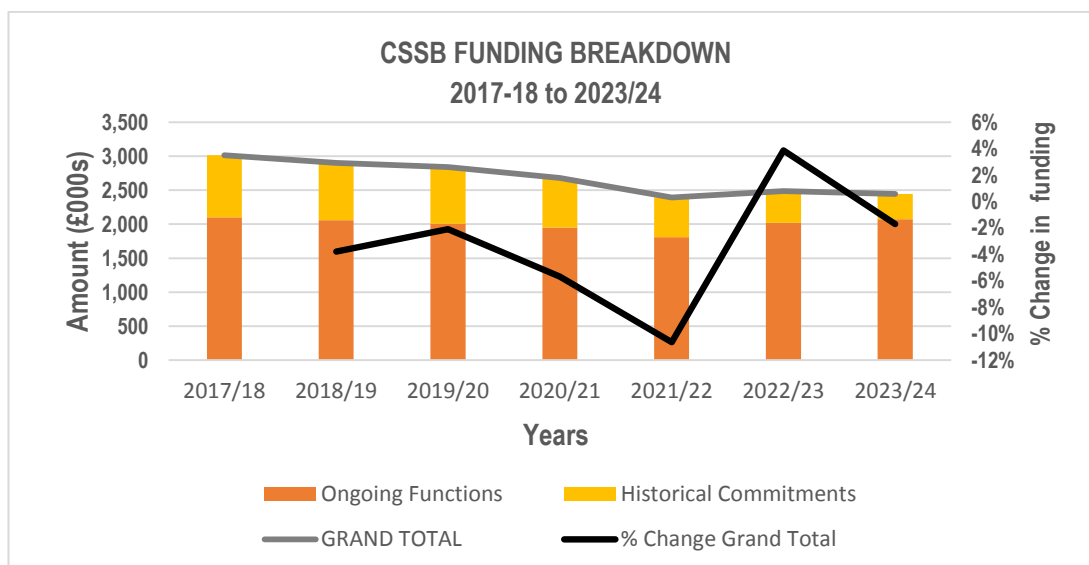
Table 1: Planned Use of CSSB

Areas of Funding	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Var	Comments
	Actual		Indicative	Var	
	£000s				
Education Welfare	385	385	385	0	
Admissions	515	515	515	0	
Appeals	139	139	139	0	
Central Licenses	226	226	226	0	
Management & support	454	664	715	51	
Place Planning	90	90	90	0	
Ongoing Functions	1,809	2,019	2,070	51	
Prudential Borrowing	237	227	218	-9	Annual repayments reduction
Joint Services for Disabled Children	23	23	23	0	
Out of School Activities	37	37	37	0	
Parenting Support Service	211	104	20	-107	
Adolescent Support Ser.	76	76	76	0	
Historical Commitments	584	467	373	-117	
GRAND TOTAL	2,393	2,486	2,443	-117	

It should be noted that the on-going duties are based on an indicative allocation. The final budget settlement will be adjusted to reflect October 2022 Pupil Census data.

Graph 1 illustrates actual and indicative funding for 2023/24 since the CSSB was introduced in 2017/18. As will be seen, from 2017/18 to 2023/24, there is potential decline of **-1.5%** in overall funding. This is because when there has been an increase in the formula factor rates, it has been offset by a reduced amount being provided to reflect declining pupil numbers.

Table 1: Funding for the CSSB



5.2 The Forum is asked to confirm their agreement to these services continuing to be funded.

6. De-delegated Services for Maintained Schools (2023/24)

6.1 Previously, the Education Support Grant (ESG) funded general duties provided to maintained schools. When ESG funding ceased, local authorities were required to seek approval for money to be de-delegated from maintained schools to continue to provide services covered by ESG. The regulations require annual approval for de-delegation. It should be noted that academies are not included in this process and may buy these services from the Local Authority from their allocated budget share

6.2 Since 2021/22, the primary sector has chosen not to de-delegate a number of services and therefore primary schools are responsible for managing the activities covered by these services.

6.5 CLEAPSS: for a number of years the increases in cost and payment of the radiation protection adviser for secondary schools have been absorbed. For 2023/24, it is proposed to increase the per pupil rate by 1.5p for all schools and secondary schools will be charged the rate for radiation protection adviser of £55 per school

6.6 Long Service Awards: the number of staff eligible for the increase has recently increased and it is proposed that the per pupil amount is increased by 15p per pupil..

6.7 Support for Schools in Difficulties: The current funding and regulatory framework for the Schools block does not allow retention of a contingency fund to supporting schools in difficulties or at risk beyond the areas covered by core statutory support provided by the School Improvement Service.

For a number of years, funding has been de-delegated to support schools in difficulties. For the last couple of years, the funding has been incorporated into the School Intervention and Support Programme with the use of the money being monitored by the Excellence Learning Partnership. The funding has provided valuable access to resources to commission interventions that enable improvements and raising of standards

6.6 Table 3 summaries the de-delegated services and cost per pupil agreed by the primary and secondary sectors for 2022/23.

Table 2: De-delegated Services

Areas of Funding	Sector	Estimated De-delegated Budget	Amount PP / FSM	Comment
		£	£	
Licenses & Subs - CLEAPPS	Prim & Sec	4,012	0.16	Statutory requirement
Free School Meals Eligibility	Prim & Sec	28,890	6.4	
NQT Recruitment Support & Applicant Tracking System	Prim & Sec	17,028	0.87	
Union Duties	Prim & Sec	79,243	3.16	
School Improvement Service	Secondary	108,093	4.31	
School Improvement Service	Secondary	100,308	11.94	
Support for Schools in Difficulties	Secondary	108,082	4.31	
General Data Protection Regulation	Prim & Sec	77,739	3.1	Statutory requirement
Long Service Awards	Prim & Sec	3,762	0.15	

6.7 The maintained school representatives are asked to confirm the central services to be de-delegated from 1 April 2023. It should be noted where a service is not de-delegated, then any existing de-delegation arrangements will cease on 31 August 2023.

Report Author: Sangeeta Brown
Date of report November 2022

Background Papers: Previous Schools Forum reports, DfE guidance documents and regulations governing school funding.

Statutory and regulatory duties

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
<p>Director of children's services and personal staff for director (Sch 2, 15a)</p> <p>Planning for the education service as a whole (Sch 2, 15b)</p> <p>Revenue budget preparation, preparation of information on income and expenditure relating to education, and external audit relating to education (Sch 2, 22)</p> <p>Authorisation and monitoring of expenditure not met from schools' budget shares (Sch 2, 15c)</p> <p>Formulation and review of local authority schools funding formula (Sch 2, 15d)</p> <p>Internal audit and other tasks related to the authority's chief finance officer's responsibilities under Section 151 of LGA 1972 except duties specifically related to maintained schools (Sch 2, 15e)</p> <p>Consultation costs relating to non-staffing issues (Sch 2, 19)</p> <p>Plans involving collaboration with other LA services or public or voluntary bodies (Sch 2, 15f)</p> <p>Standing Advisory Committees for Religious Education (SACREs) (Sch 2, 17)</p> <p>Provision of information to or at the request of the Crown other than relating specifically to maintained schools (Sch 2, 21)</p>	<p>Functions of LA related to best value and provision of advice to governing bodies in procuring goods and services (Sch 2, 56)</p> <p>Budgeting and accounting functions relating to maintained schools (Sch 2, 73)</p> <p>Functions relating to the financing of maintained schools (Sch 2, 58)</p> <p>Authorisation and monitoring of expenditure in respect of schools which do not have delegated budgets, and related financial administration (Sch 2, 57)</p> <p>Monitoring of compliance with requirements in relation to the scheme for financing schools and the provision of community facilities by governing bodies (Sch 2, 58)</p> <p>Internal audit and other tasks related to the authority's chief finance officer's responsibilities under Section 151 of LGA 1972 for maintained schools (Sch 2, 59)</p> <p>Functions made under Section 44 of the 2002 Act (Consistent Financial Reporting) (Sch 2, 60)</p> <p>Investigations of employees or potential employees, with or without remuneration to work at or for schools under the direct management of the headteacher or governing body (Sch 2, 61)</p> <p>Functions related to local government pensions and administration of teachers' pensions in relation to staff working at maintained schools under the direct management of the headteacher or governing body (Sch 2, 62)</p> <p>Retrospective membership of pension schemes where it would not be appropriate to expect a school to meet the cost (Sch 2, 75)</p> <p>HR duties, including advice to schools on the management of staff, pay alterations, conditions of service and composition or organisation of staff (Sch 2, 63); determination of conditions of service for non-teaching staff (Sch 2, 64); appointment or dismissal of employee functions (Sch 2, 65)</p> <p>Consultation costs relating to staffing (Sch 2, 66)</p> <p>Compliance with duties under Health and Safety at Work Act (Sch 2, 67)</p> <p>Provision of information to or at the request of the Crown relating to schools (Sch 2, 68)</p> <p>School companies (Sch 2, 69)</p> <p>Functions under the Equality Act 2010 (Sch 2, 70)</p> <p>Establish and maintaining computer systems, including data storage (Sch 2, 71)</p> <p>Appointment of governors and payment of governor expenses (Sch 2, 72)</p>

Education welfare

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
<p>Functions in relation to the exclusion of pupils from schools, excluding any provision of education to excluded pupils (Sch 2, 20)</p> <p>School attendance (Sch 2, 16)</p> <p>Responsibilities regarding the employment of children (Sch 2, 18)</p>	<p>Inspection of attendance registers (Sch 2, 78)</p>

Asset management

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
<p>Management of the LA's capital programme including preparation and review of an asset management plan, and negotiation and management of private finance transactions (Sch 2, 14a)</p> <p>General landlord duties for all buildings owned by the local authority, including those leased to academies (Sch 2, 14b)</p>	<p>General landlord duties for all maintained schools (Sch 2, 76a & b (section 542(2)) Education Act 1996; School Premises Regulations 2012) to ensure that school buildings have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> appropriate facilities for pupils and staff (including medical and accommodation) the ability to sustain appropriate loads reasonable weather resistance safe escape routes appropriate acoustic levels lighting, heating and ventilation which meets the required standards adequate water supplies and drainage playing fields of the appropriate standards <p>General health and safety duty as an employer for employees and others who may be affected (Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974)</p> <p>Management of the risk from asbestos in community school buildings (Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012)</p>

Central support services

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
<p>No functions</p>	<p>Clothing grants (Sch 2, 52)</p> <p>Provision of tuition in music, or on other music-related activities (Sch 2, 53)</p> <p>Visual, creative and performing arts (Sch 2, 54)</p> <p>Outdoor education centres (but not centres mainly for the provision of organised games, swimming or athletics) (Sch 2, 55)</p>

Premature retirement and redundancy

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
<p>No functions</p>	<p>Dismissal or premature retirement when costs cannot be charged to maintained schools (Sch 2, 77)</p>

Monitoring national curriculum assessment

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
No functions	Monitoring of National Curriculum assessments (Sch 2, 74)

Therapies

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
No functions	This is now covered in the high needs section of the regulations and does not require schools forum approval

Other ongoing duties

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
<p>Licences negotiated centrally by the Secretary of State for all publicly funded schools (Sch 2, 8); this does not require schools forum approval</p> <p>Admissions (Sch 2, 9)</p> <p>Places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils (Sch 2, 10)</p> <p>Remission of boarding fees at maintained schools and academies (Sch 2, 11)</p> <p>Servicing of schools forums (Sch 2, 12)</p> <p>Back-pay for equal pay claims (Sch 2, 13)</p> <p>Writing to parents of year 9 pupils about schools with an atypical age of admission, such as UTCs and studio schools, within a reasonable travelling distance (new addition to CSSB, to be included in 2018 to 2019 regulations)¹</p>	No functions

Historic commitments

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
<p>Capital expenditure funded from revenue (Sch 2, 1)</p> <p>Prudential borrowing costs (Sch 2, 2(a))</p> <p>Termination of employment costs (Sch 2, 2(b))</p> <p>Contribution to combined budgets (Sch 2, 2(c))</p>	No functions