
Meeting: Schools Forum
Date: 28 September 2009
Subject: Update from the Technical Funding Sub Group
Report of: Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children, Families and Learning
Summary: To update the Schools Forum on initial meeting of the Technical Funding Sub Group.

Contact Officer: Dawn Hill, Borough Hall, Bedford

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Council

Reason for urgency
(if appropriate)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. that the progress report be received.**

Background

1. It was resolved at the meeting of the 29 June 2009 that a Technical Sub Group should be formed to look at specific areas of formula funding changes. It was further proposed that this group initially reviews:
 - a review of the thresholds for deprivation funding and where this should include a tapering element;
 - a review of 'ghost funding' to establish whether this factor need a tapering element; and
 - a factor where a significant number of armed forces pupils are present and have significant mobility, outside of natural transition stages.
2. Members:

Neil Bramwell, Headteacher Stratton Upper
Shirley Anne Crosbie, Headteacher, Glenwood Special
Jim Smart, Headteacher, Shelton Lower School.

It was felt that further representation would be required to ensure all sectors are represented and therefore, Ian Mitchell (Middle Schools representative) and Ian Greenley (non-schools representative) were contacted and requested to participate.

Update

3. The first of the meetings was held on the 13 July 2009 (Minutes - Appendix A)

The three initial reviews were discussed (Deprivation, Ghost Funding and Armed Forces pupil) and resolved that during the summer break further research would take place regarding Service Personnel and benchmarking statistics, and modelling on possible options for 'Ghost Funding' and Deprivation.

The findings are to be brought back to the Technical Funding Sub group mid September with recommendation to the main School Forum at the next meeting.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Minutes of meeting 13 July 2009