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**Meeting:** Central Bedfordshire Schools Forum  
**Date:** 25 January 2010  
**Subject:** Standards Fund 2010-11  
**Report of:** Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children, Families and Learning  
**Summary:** To update the Schools Forum on the Standards Funds for 2010-11 and issues to be determined.

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Contact Officer: Micky Pompa, Priory Business Park, Bedford  
Public/Exempt: Public  
Wards Affected: All  
Function of: Council

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1. To note the Standards Funds amounts, issues to be determined and endorse the proposals re, Schools Development Grant.**

**Background**

1. The Standards Fund Circular was issued on 2 December. The total revenue grants, including grants transferred to the Area Based Grant (ABG) currently announced for 2008-09 are £16.3m, this does not include any Local Authority contribution.
2. The significant changes are:
  - The ABG are grants retained by the LA rather than delegated to schools.
  - Targeted support for Primary Strategy – decrease of £42K.
  - Targeted support for Secondary Strategy – increase of 1K.
  - Targeted School Meal Grant (LA) and School Meal Grant (devolved) replaced by School Lunch Grant – increase of £7K.
  - Extended Schools (Sustainability) Grant – increase of £262K.
  - Extended Schools (Subsidy) – increase of £479K.

- Early Years Extension and Flexibility Grant – increase of £1.2m This is to fund the extension of early years' entitlement to 15 hours and over a flexible period of 3-5 days for the whole of the Financial Year.
- Harnessing Technology Grant – decrease of £55k.
- 1-2-1 Tuition - increase of £485K.
- New Grant Foundation Learning - amount to be announced later in the year.
- Devolved Formula Capital of £5.0m.

3. The key issues still to be determined are:

**(a) The distribution of the 2.1% increase in School Development Grant (approximately £100k)**

- **It is proposed that this is distributed flatly as a 2.1% inflation increase per pupil, in line with the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG).**
- The alternative would be to distribute the 2.1% increase based on a deprivation basis, in which case many schools would get no increase per pupil.

**(b) The allocation of the School Lunch Grant (£359k)**

- The grant can be used for any of the direct costs of a school lunch. This could include not only ingredients but also the increased costs of additional hours to prepare fresh food, increased rates of pay for employees with higher skills levels or for small pieces of extra equipment needed to provide a hot meal.
- **It is proposed that the grant is separated into the total amount for the schools in the Local Authority (LA) Contract and those schools who make their own arrangements. This allocation would be on the basis of the funding to the LA i.e. 70% on a per pupil basis and 30% on free school meal eligibility.**
- **The amount in respect of schools on the LA contract would be held centrally, to fund the subsidy to school meals arising from the new menus.**
- **The amount for schools outside the LA contract would have the funding devolved on the above basis, to assist with their local arrangements.**

**(c) The distribution of Harnessing Technology Funding (£1.12m)**

- It is proposed that this funding is distributed in line with previous years 60% held centrally and 40% devolved to schools.

**(d) KS2 Music Funding (£437k)**

- It is proposed that this funding is used in line with previous years that the grant is held centrally and managed by the Music Service.

**Appendices:**

Appendix A - Standards Fund 2010-11

Appendix B - Area Base Grants 2010-11