

**Agenda Item: 9 (a)**

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**Meeting:** Schools Forum

**Date:** 29 June 2009

**Subject:** 14-16 Practical Learning Options – DSG Devolved to Strategic Partnerships

**Report of:** Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children, Families and Learning

**Summary:** To brief the Schools Forum on the devolved funding of the DSG Practical Learning Options.

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Contact Officer: Kevin Green (01234 228744)

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Council

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**1. that the amount of DSG assigned to Practical Learning Options be devolved to the 14-19 Strategic Partnership, with reports on its usage back to the Schools Forum as diplomas develop.**

1. Since the introduction of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), from April 2006, the schools funding has included an amount for 14-16 Practical Learning options. For Bedfordshire (including Bedford Borough) this totals £980k for 2009-10, after allowing for annual DSG increases.
2. The Schools Forum agreed that this funding be allocated to the three 14-19 area groups (defined by the old district boundaries).
3. Subsequent to this original decision there have been a number of changes:
  - the area groups were divided into two consortia 1. Mid/North – with the Bedford Borough, Mid-Beds Upper Schools, Bedford and Shuttleworth Colleges and 2. South –with the Leighton/Dunstable Upper Schools and Dunstable College. These consortia remain in place, although the Mid/North cuts across the two new unitary authorities

- each area in the country has set up a mandatory 14-19 Partnership, including representatives of LAs, the LSC, Schools, FE Colleges. This is generally by upper tier LA area. However, Bedfordshire has retained a joint partnership for the two new unitary authorities
- the 14-19 Partnership is the strategic lead for 14-19 provision and is statutory sub-group of the Children's Trust. Appendix 6.2 sets out an extract from the latest DCSF guidance "14-19 Partnerships and planning", relating to the 14-19 Partnership's strategic role.