

11 November 2015

SIXTH FORM FUNDING FROM SCHOOLS BLOCK DSG

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Author: Jonathan Burberry

Tel: 01992 555943

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek the support of the Forum to consult schools on the discontinuation of the sixth form factor within schools block budget shares.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Forum is asked to support consulting schools on:
- discontinuation in 2016-17 of the sixth form factor within schools block budget shares;
 - recycling of this funding through the key stage 4 AWPU.

3. Background

- 3.1 The schools block of DSG is not intended to fund post 16 provision. Separate sixth form allocations are provided to schools by the EFA. These are determined by the national post 16 funding formula. However, historically the School Standards Grant and the Standards Fund, which were subsumed into the DSG in 2011, included allocations for post 16 pupils. As a consequence local authorities are still permitted to allocate an amount of money per sixth form pupil through the schools block funding formula. This is additional to the EFA sixth form funding. The DfE sees this as a transitional arrangement and has capped the amount of funding per pupil that can be allocated for sixth formers from the schools block. Given the reductions in EFA sixth form allocations in recent years, Hertfordshire has not looked to reduce sixth form funding from the schools block. £2.994m was allocated in 2015-16, equating to £182.10 per sixth form pupil.

4. Proposal for change

- 4.1 The Authority understands that there is a possibility that, if it continues to allocate schools block funding through a sixth form factor, then this resource could be lost to the schools block in future.

It is therefore proposed to switch the resource currently allocated through the sixth form factor to KS4 AWPU funding. There will be winners and losers as a result of this change.

The Authority will explore with the DfE whether there are any issues with completely discontinuing the sixth form factor at the point, given that the provisional budget share pro-forma for 2016-17 has already been submitted. If the factor cannot be completely removed, then it will be reduced as far as possible.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The Forum is asked to agree the recommendation in section 2.