

Bristol Schools Forum
De-delegation 2020/21

Date of meeting:	26 th November 2019
Time of meeting:	5.00 pm
Venue:	City Hall, Writing Room

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To inform the Schools Forum of the outcome of the de-delegation consultation, which ran 11th October to 4th November 2019.
- 1.2 To seek agreement from the maintained primary school members of the Forum to the primary school de-delegated services for 2020/21.
- 1.3 To seek agreement from the maintained secondary school members of the Forum to the secondary school de-delegated services for 2020/21

2. Recommendation

Schools Forum is invited to:

- 2.1 Note the outcomes of the consultation on school funding arrangements.**

Maintained primary school representatives of Schools Forum are invited to:

- 2.2 Agree to de-delegation of the following services at the amounts per pupil indicated in Table 1 for 2020-21:**
 - a) Employee and Premises Insurance**
 - b) Assessment of eligibility for free school meals**
 - c) Maternity supply cover**
 - d) Schools in financial difficulty**
 - e) Trades Union facility time**
 - f) Education psychology**

Maintained secondary school representatives of Schools Forum are invited to:

2.3 Agree to de-delegation of the following services at the amounts per pupil indicated in Table 1 for 2020-21:

- a) Employee and Premises Insurance**
- b) Assessment of eligibility for free school meals**
- c) Maternity supply cover**
- d) Trades Union facility time**
- e) Health and safety roving reps**
- f) Education psychology**

Table 1: de-delegation rates per pupil for primary and secondary schools

	Primary rate £	Secondary rate £
Employee and Premises Insurance	31.06	39.48
FSM Eligibility	1.14	1.14
Maternity Supply Insurance	30.34	44.06
Schools in Financial Difficulty	5.17	n/a
Trade Union Facility time	3.85	3.85
Health and Safety Roving Reps	n/a	0.91
Educational Psychology	5.48	5.48

3. Background

- 3.1 Maintained mainstream schools, by majority vote of the Schools Forum in each sector, can opt to de-delegate the funding for their sector. The agreed retention will not be given to maintained schools in the formula and instead the LA will hold the funds centrally for the agreed services and spend the funds on those de-delegating sectors only.
- 3.2 Decisions on de-delegation are for representatives of each sector's maintained schools to make.
- 3.3 To assist the LA and Schools Forum with determining courses of action for the 2020-21 de-delegation the LA consulted with schools to seek the views of stakeholders.

4. De-delegation in 2019/20

4.1 The table below shows the services that Schools Forum voted to de-delegate for 2019/20, and the funding generated for each of those services.

Table 2: De-delegated services and funding in 2019/20

2019-2020 De-delegation following consultation	Primary		Secondary	
	Total £'000	Per Pupil	Total £'000	Per Pupil
'Insurance' type Services				
Employee & Premises Insurance	550	31.06	71	39.38
Assessment of Eligibility for free school meals	20	1.14	2	1.14
Maternity Supply Cover	490	27.68	73	40.20
Schools In Financial Difficulty	0	0	n/a	n/a
TU Facility Time	68	3.85	7	3.85
Health & Safety Roving Reps	n/a	n/a	2	0.91
Services to Schools				
Educational Psychology	97	5.48	10	5.48
Total de-delegated	1,225	69.21	165	90.96

4.2 Schools Forum will remember a decision was taken not to seek additional funding for Schools in Financial Difficulty due to the accumulated balance being felt sufficient for 2019/20.

5. De-delegated items 2020/21.

5.1 The services in scope for 2020/21 are those as de-delegated in 2019/20.

5.2 Two services have seen changes in per-pupil rates for 2020/21 from 2019/20: Schools in Financial Difficulty is seeking de-delegation funding in order to support eligible maintained primary schools in 2020/21, and TWS has requested an increase to the Maternity Supply Cover de-delegation rate due to a failure to cover the cost of this provision in 2018/19.

5.3 The charge for Schools in Financial Difficulty has been re-introduced in anticipation of increased support being required as more maintained primary schools experience inflationary cost pressures combined with potentially falling rolls. Re-introducing the charge provides approximately £88k should there be 17,000 maintained primary school pupils in 2020/21.

5.4 Table 3 (below) provides some detail on each of the areas of de-delegation.

Table 3: Areas of de-delegation

<p>Employee & Premises Insurance This funds mandatory insurance covers arranged by the local authority. If delegated, schools would need to assure the LA that cover arranged by the school (if not bought back) is fit for purpose. Pooling the funding ensures proper cover and allows schools' to avoid bureaucracy.</p>	<p>Per-pupil charge unchanged from 2019/20</p>
<p>Assessment of eligibility for free school meals This funding enables the service to schools for the checking of free school meal eligibility.</p>	<p>Per-pupil charge unchanged from 2019/20</p>
<p>Maternity Supply Cover Supports schools by funding the costs incurred covering staff taking maternity / paternity leave or staff on adoption leave.</p>	<p>Per-pupil charge increased from 2019/20</p>
<p>Schools In Financial Difficulty for Primary schools Provides support to schools in or forecasting a deficit. Access to the support is generally dependent on a school producing an agreed Recovery Plan. The use of funds is directed by the head of school partnerships.</p>	<p>Per-pupil charge re-introduced for 2020/21</p>
<p>Trade Union Facility Time This service enables schools to access TU representatives, in city-wide roles. The pooled budget for TU facilities time enables adequate representation across all TUs and more predictable costs at school level.</p>	<p>Per-pupil charge unchanged from 2019/20</p>
<p>Health & Safety Roving Reps in Secondary schools "Roving" reps are safety representatives who are appointed by TUs to cover multiple school sites. Their work includes effective consultation with employees in relation to employee health and safety issues. Compared to previous years, there are fewer safety representatives, and the cost of training is reduced. School head teachers retain overall responsibility, with the TU rep acting on the Head's behalf.</p>	<p>Per-pupil charge unchanged from 2019/20</p>
<p>Educational Psychology (EP) The Education Psychology Service provides professional advice to young people, families and educational settings. The de-delegated funding supports the delivery of EP visits to schools to discuss and identify vulnerable children and young people, and support a robust graduated response to needs including cost effectiveness. This is in addition to the Educational Psychology work in to the SEN assessment process, paid for by the LA as a statutory responsibility.</p>	<p>Per-pupil charge unchanged from 2019/20</p>

- 5.5 The de-delegation consultation was launched 11th October and ran for three weeks to 4th November. The de-delegation consultation was communicated to schools through the Service Director for Education, Skills regular newsletter.
- 5.6 This consultation sought school stakeholder views on the de-delegation of funding from mainstream schools for specific services, it was open to maintained mainstream schools only to respond.
- 5.7 Eleven of a possible 53 primary schools responded, whilst one of a possible two secondary schools responded. The response to de-delegation is shown in the tables below.

Table 4: Primary de-delegation

Service	Votes Pool	Votes Delegate	Votes: No preference	% Pool	% Delegate	% No preference
Employee and Premises Insurance	11	0	0	100	0	0
FSM Eligibility	11	0	0	100	0	0
Maternity Supply Insurance	10	1	0	91	9	0
Schools in Financial Difficulty	6	4	1	55	36	9
Trade Union Facility time	8	3	0	73	27	0
Education Psychology	9	2	0	82	18	0

Table 5: Secondary de-delegation

Service	Votes Pool	Votes Delegate	Votes: No preference	% Pool	% Delegate	% No preference
Employee and Premises Insurance	1	0	0	100	0	0
FSM Eligibility	1	0	0	100	0	0
Maternity Supply Insurance	1	0	0	100	0	0
Trade Union Facility time	1	0	0	100	0	0
H&S Roving Reps	1	0	0	100	0	0
Education Psychology	1	0	0	100	0	0

5.8 The Local Authority recommendation to Schools Forum is that all of the services are de-delegated to maintained schools in 2020/21. De-delegation supports the provision of a coherent core offer by the Council to all maintained schools. This is particularly important when unplanned issues arise in a school and enables support to be provided rapidly and without the need to agree terms of engagement. Whilst the LA recognises that in any particular given year not all schools will access all services to the same degree, funding these services enables all maintained schools to benefit at a time of need.