

Bristol Schools Forum
De-delegation 2024/25

Date of meeting:	28 th November 2023
Time of meeting:	5.00 pm
Venue:	City Hall

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To inform the Schools Forum of the outcome of the de-delegation consultation, which ran from 3rd October 2023 to 14th November 2023.
- 1.2 To seek agreement from the maintained primary school members of the Forum to the primary school de-delegated services for 2024/25.
- 1.3 To seek agreement from the maintained secondary school members of the Forum to the secondary school de-delegated services for 2024/25.

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 2024-25:**
 - 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**
 - g) School Improvement Services**

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 2024-25:

- 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**
- g) School Improvement Services**

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

	Primary rate £	Secondary rate £
Employee and Premises Insurance*	27.72	27.72
FSM Eligibility	1.23	1.23
Maternity Supply Insurance	33.55	48.72
Schools in Financial Difficulty	0	n/a
Trade Union Facility time	4.15	4.15
Health and Safety Roving Reps	n/a	0.98
Educational Psychology	6.27	6.27
School Improvement Services	5.31	5.31

*The rate for Employee and Premises Insurance is currently showing as 2023/24 rate as the DfE have not yet published the 2024/25 RPA rates. Therefore, this rate could change once updated information becomes available.

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 2024-25 de-delegation the LA consulted with schools to seek the views of stakeholders.

4. De-delegation in 2023/24

- 4.1 The table below shows the services that Schools Forum voted to de-delegate for 2023/24, and the funding generated for each of those services.

Table 2: De-delegated services and funding in 2023/24

2023-2024 De-delegation	Primary		Secondary	
	Total £'000	Per Pupil	Total £'000	Per Pupil
'Insurance' type Services				
Employee & Premises Insurance	399	27.72	51	27.72
Assessment of Eligibility for free school meals	17	1.17	2	1.17
Maternity Supply Cover	460	31.95	86	46.40
Schools In Financial Difficulty	0	0	n/a	n/a
TU Facility Time	57	3.95	7	3.95
Health & Safety Roving Reps	n/a	n/a	2	0.93
Services to Schools				
Educational Psychology	86	5.97	11	5.97
School Improvement Services	52	3.64	7	3.64
Total de-delegated	1,071	74.40	166	89.78

- 4.2 Schools Forum will remember decisions were taken not to de-delegate additional funding for Schools in Financial Difficulty in Primary Schools due to the accumulated balances being felt sufficient for 2023/24.

5. De-delegated items 2024/25.

- 5.1 The services in scope for 2024/25 include those that were in scope for 2023/24.

5.2 There have been a number of changes to the per-pupil de-delegation rates for 2024/25. The rates for Free School Meal assessment, Supply Cover, TU Facility Time, H&S Reps and Education Psychology have increased by 5%. Schools in Financial Difficulty has been listed for de-delegation again, but at nil contribution for 2024/25 due to accumulated funds still available. The proposed rate for School Improvement Service has increased by 46%.

5.3 Table 3 provides detail on each of the areas of de-delegation.

Table 3: Areas of de-delegation

<p>Employee & Premises Insurance This funds insurance cover as 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>Currently same rate as last year until further information is published.</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 increased 5% from 2023/24</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 5% from 2023/24</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. For information: there is currently available balance of £335k on this fund.</p>	<p>No contribution proposed for 2024/25</p>
<p>Trade Union Facility Time Fund Employers have a statutory obligation to release trade union representatives for representation in cases. The facilities fund held by Bristol City Council is used to remunerate schools that release their teachers who are TU representatives to carry out casework for their members. In the absence of any facility fund, maintained school bear the cost of releasing staff. For information: there is currently available a balance of £192k available to be used for this purpose.</p>	<p>Per-pupil charge increased 5% from 2023/24</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.</p>	<p>Per-pupil charge increased 5% from 2023/24</p>

<p>School head teachers retain overall responsibility, with the TU rep acting on the Head's behalf.</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 increased 5% from 2023/24</p>
<p>School Improvement Service (NEW) The ending of the DfE School Improvement monitoring and brokering grant for 2022-23 impacted on the current model of school improvement service. We are now working to create a model to support quality provision for children and young people. This model is to meet both statutory improvement needs and provide a holistic approach to school improvement across the city. The request of £86,000 is to commit to investing into the service to future proof and become a self-sustainable model and not simply to meet the statutory requirements. The model places children and young people at the heart of the work and we want to ensure an equitable service is funded realistically and fairly.</p>	<p>Per-pupil charge increased 46% from 2023/24</p>

- 5.4 The de-delegation consultation was launched 3rd October 2023 and ran for six weeks to 14th November 2023. The de-delegation consultation was communicated to schools through the Service Director for Education, Skills regular newsletter, email and through school forum members.
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 6 of a possible 41 primary schools responded, whilst none of the possible two secondary schools responded. The response to de-delegation is shown in the tables below.

Table 4: Primary de-delegation (6 responses)

Service	Votes Pool	Votes Delegate	Votes: No indication	% Pool	% Delegate	% No indication
Employee and Premises Insurance	6	0	0	100	0	0
FSM Eligibility	6	0	0	100	0	0
Maternity Supply Insurance	5	1	0	83	17	0
Schools in Financial Difficulty	4	2	0	67	33	0
Trade Union Facility time	4	2	0	67	33	0
Education Psychology	5	1	0	83	17	0
School Improvement Service	3	3	0	50	50	0

Table 5: Secondary de-delegation (0 responses)

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

5.7 Breakdown of Schools in Financial Difficulty and Trade Union De-delegations:

	SiFD £'000	Trade Unions £'000	Total £'000
Balance b/f	335	192	527
Estimated 23/24 Income*	0	222	222
2023/24 Spend to date	0	159	159
Estimated Balance c/f	335	255	590

*Please note that estimated 2023/24 income includes £158k which relates to academies and it is likely that the full amount will not be paid.

5.8 There were approximately 14,400 primary age pupils in maintained schools in 2023/24, whilst there were approximately 1,800 secondary age pupils. Assuming these pupil numbers continue into 2024-25, if School Forum supports further contributions via de-delegation, for TU Facility Time this would contribute £67k to the fund for 2024-25. No contribution is being sought for the SIFD fund for 2024-25. These funds are ringfenced and reserved for activity in maintained schools; activity in academy schools is charged separately.

5.9 The Local Authority recommendation to Schools Forum is that all available services are de-delegated to maintained schools in 2024/25. De-delegation supports the provision of a coherent core offer by the LA 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.