

Agenda Item 7

TITLE De-delegated Schools Contingency

FOR CONSIDERATION BY Schools Forum on 17 October 2018

WARD (All Wards);

DIRECTOR Interim Director of Children's Services - Jim Leivers

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

Schools Forum are asked to note the content of this report

SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report is to provide the Schools Forum with information on how the Council is using the de-delegated contingency pot held on behalf off, and funded by, the maintained schools.

2018/19 Contingencies Breakdown
October 2018

.01 Purpose of the Report

This report is to inform the Schools Forum on how the Council is applying the de-delegated school's contingency budget.

.02 Suggested Actions

The Schools Forum are asked to note the content.

.03 Background

The Department for Education (DfE) allow the Council to run specific services for its maintained schools, if the maintained schools require this type of support.

The maintained schools provided the Council with some funding to support schools in financial difficulty and fund schools with exceptional circumstances that cannot balance their budget.

Schools with exceptional circumstances can apply for this funding and finance will visit the school to establish their unique situation.

The contingency is managed by Finance with each claim assessed on its merit. Once Finance has assessed the request, the request and evidence is passed for approval or not, to the Assistant Director of Children Services.

.04 Financial Summary

At present there has been one claim on this funding, which have been approved. The school involved will be closely monitored to identify any issues or changes as this support provided is intended to support their ability to deliver a balanced budget in the future.

Please see the table below:

Description	Amount
Contingency for Maintained schools in financial difficulties	(£176,095)
School A: The school has been involved in a confidential investigation of a senior staff member. The staff member needed to be paid during the investigation which took over a year. The School tried to manage the cost within it's schools budget, however due to issues with the first investigation	£43,000

<p>which was not fit for purpose, a second investigation was commissioned, this was not expected or anticipated and this in turn increased costs and time taken to resolve the issues.</p> <p>The school has provided a breakdown of the costs which was approx. £121k. The school request a contribution to these costs which the LA agreed too.</p>	
Total amount not yet committed.	(£133,095)

.05 Conclusion

The schools' contingency is available to maintained schools as per the school budget guidance published by the Department of Education (DfE).

Coral Miller
Interim Senior Finance Specialist - Schools
October 2018

Bob Watson
Lead Specialist - Finance (deputy s.151 officer)
October 2018

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