



Leicester
City Council

CONSULTATION

SCHOOL FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS 2020-21

DE- DELEGATION (MAINTAINED SCHOOLS)

INTRODUCTION

De-delegation means that funds are passed back from school budgets to the LA and used to fund services provided for all maintained schools, free at the point of use.

De-delegation is an option for primary and/or secondary maintained schools only and the decision to de-delegate is reserved to Schools Forum representatives of each sector.

The extent to which mainstream schools de-delegate funding has reduced in recent years. In 2019/20 for example the contingency funds for exceptional cost pressures and financial difficulty were ended.

This consultation proposes the conversion of two services to a traded offer in 2020/21. Early views are also sought regarding the potential conversion of all remaining de-delegated services to a traded basis from 2021/22. Given the mixed economy of maintained and academy schools there is an argument for treating schools on a consistent basis through trading rather than de-delegation and we would welcome your views.

Funding rates per pupil have not been increased for several years and you will find that some services are requesting an increase in order to maintain existing service levels.

For the sake of clarity, the final 2020-21 total funding for de-delegated items will **differ** from illustrations within this document. This is because we are using October 2018 pupil data for the illustrations rather than the as yet unknown October 2019 data upon which next year's allocations will be based. This will have an impact on the providers of the service and they will need to take this into account in resourcing the service. Similarly, any in year conversions to academy status could affect the extent of de-delegated funding. Providers of the services will need to be aware of such conversions and approach academies to charge for their service on a traded basis if the de-delegated funding is reduced.

Nevertheless, as far as individual schools are concerned the rates per pupil which schools would pay will not vary once approved by Schools Forum.

We welcome and seek the views of all schools and stakeholders and invite comments on the questions within this document.

The consultation period will run from the 4 November to 15 November 2019.

Responses to the consultation will be analysed and used to inform discussions at Schools Forum with the final decisions reserved to Schools Forum in November 2019. School budgets for 2020/21 will be confirmed by the end of February 2020.

The following paragraphs describe the services which were de-delegated in 2019/20 and any changes proposed for 2020/21.

SERVICES DE-DELEGATED IN 2019/20 AND ANY CHANGES PROPOSED FOR 2020/21

1. SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH TEAM (SEMH TEAM) FOR LEICESTER CITY PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Overall aim of service: To support primary schools to include and meet the needs of vulnerable pupils who have social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs, reduce exclusions and promote inclusion.

A major part of the SEMH's team work is to provide whole school work and CPD to support schools to develop further their knowledge, confidence and skills around meeting the needs of children with SEMH difficulties.

This team works with schools and other agencies to ensure all children with social, emotional and mental health needs access a full-time education which improves their educational attainment as well as their personal development.

Each primary school in Leicester City has its own SEMH Team link teacher. There are also link SEMH Teachers for every secondary school and many of the city's special schools, who buy support from the team on a traded basis. There continues to be a very close working with the Primary PRU.

The SEMH Team supports schools in a wide variety of ways to understand, support and manage the behaviour and meet the needs of those pupils that have SEMH difficulties in primary schools thereby promoting inclusion in Leicester City schools. The SEMH team also coordinates several initiatives across the city such as Nurture Groups, Team Teach and takes an active role in the city's Anti-Bullying work including the management of Leicester City's anti-bullying award 'Positive and Peaceful Places'.

Work with Individuals

Pupils are referred by schools to SEMH Team following discussion of the individual pupil between the Head or SENCo and the school's link SEMH teacher usually at a joint planning meeting. Following this discussion, the school completes a referral form. Part of the referral form includes a form for completion by parent/carer and a signature from parent/carer is required.

Initially the SEMH link teacher will consult with school staff, parents/carers and, as appropriate other agencies in the referred child's life. This will be followed by observation and assessment and possibly an interview with the child. Work with individuals might involve the following:

- focussed and direct work with the pupil which could include direct support of the pupil through use of a SEMH practitioner
- mentoring and coaching for school-based staff working with the pupil
- focussed and direct work with the class teacher around the pupil incorporating such strategies as Circles of Adults to inform advice
- targeted group work with the pupil as part of the group

- Further assessment as appropriate for statutory assessment

This support would be monitored through either a Positive Behaviour Plan, a Pastoral Support Programme, Positive Handling Plan, a School Contract or the Annual Review.

The SEMH Team is a highly valued and regarded team. Staff on the team are paid at a very economic rate. The team have worked exceptionally hard to continue to develop their skills and provide a high quality, value for money service to schools.

The SEMH team de-delegated funding rate has not increased in the last 4 years, however costs have risen as a result of teacher's pay awards and pension increases. At the current level of funding it will not be possible to sustain the same staffing level and thus service to maintained schools for the next financial year.

The options being proposed for 2020/21 are as follows:

Option 1 – to maintain service levels at the current level would require a 20% increase in funding rate to £36.55

Option 2 – to limit the reduction in service levels to the equivalent of losing 2FTE teachers (17% of teacher capacity) would require a 5% increase in funding rate to £31.98

Option 3 – no increase in funding rate would result in a loss of service to the equivalent of 4FTE teachers (35% of capacity) and 1 FTE practitioner (20% of capacity).

There is currently a working party being organised with head teachers to look at subscription packages for Academies (at the same rate as LA schools) rather than the current pay as you go system. This will ensure that all schools are on a level playing field and receiving a level of support commensurate with their contribution to the service.

The service will work with all schools in the new financial year to determine the implications for converting to a fully traded offer rather than using de-delegation from 2021/22.

For further information please contact Sophie Maltby, SEMH Team Leader– 0116 454 4650

2. FREE SCHOOL MEAL ELIGIBILITY

Schools have previously de-delegated funding so that the LA can provide a service to check for parents' eligibility for free school meals. This coordinated approach means that schools do not have to individually access and check parent's details on the DfE portal. There are economies of scale for schools if the LA continues to provide this service centrally.

However, the LA would prefer to treat all schools whether maintained or an academy in the same way for this service. Therefore, we are proposing to end de-delegation and charge all schools that wish to take up the service by including it as an additional option within the Schools Data Traded Offer. The charge will be at the same rate as the current rate per pupil.

It is therefore proposed to no longer de-delegate funding for this service.

For further information on this service please contact the FSM Service Team – 0116 454 1009

3. LICENCES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Schools have previously de-delegated funding to gain access to the Evolve system used to plan and manage school trips and CLEAPSS (Consortium of Local Education Authorities for the Provision of Science Services) which is used as a resource to manage the health and safety aspects of experimental science work in schools.

There is a significant financial advantage for schools of the city council purchasing a bulk licence for Evolve rather than schools buying a licence on an individual basis. Moreover, CLEAPSS will not enter into individual contracts with schools, rather they deal with local authorities in order to keep costs low and even encourage Local Authorities to broker their services to Academy schools – again to keep costs low.

The council wants to continue to provide a cost-effective service, however rather than continue with de-delegation the Health and Safety team of the city council is proposing to charge schools for Evolve and CLEAPSS as part of their annual health and safety subscription from April 2020, for those schools that request the service. For maintained schools the subscription for CLEAPSS will be mandatory because this is a requirement of the Local Authority's health and safety policy. This approach will maintain the cost benefits of the current system but also standardise charging arrangements for both maintained and academy schools.

For further information please contact the Health and Safety team – 0116 454 4307

4. STAFF COSTS FOR TRADE UNION FACILITIES TIME

The trade union facilities time will cover paid time off for;

- union representatives to carry out trade union duties, including accompanying a member to a hearing e.g. disciplinary, grievance.
- union representatives to attend union training.
- union health and safety representatives during working hours to carry out health and safety functions.

Teachers have a statutory right to be supported by their union both on contractual issues and in any procedures like capability or grievance. Funding for this is received by schools as part of the Dedicated Schools Grant. This is currently re-charged back via de-delegation at a per pupil rate. This covers the services of the NEU and the NASUWT teaching unions.

In the event of schools becoming academies, they will be charged in a similar way on the basis of a per teacher charge, contributing to the de-delegated budget held by the LA. Should any academy decline to adopt this method of payment they will be charged separately at a substantial hourly rate (this to include face to face time plus all travel and preparation time). There would be a separate charge from each individual union involved.

The funding rate has not increased for a number of years and it will be necessary to increase this by 5% from 2020/21 in order to cover pay and pension inflation incurred during this time.

For further information please contact Joanne.poynton@leicester.gov.uk

5. SUPPORT FOR UNDERPERFORMING ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS AND BILINGUAL LEARNERS

All lines in this strand support primary work only

5a. CLOSING THE GAP

This work is governed by a group of primary headteachers and representatives from the Local Authority. Priorities are identified through a mixture of annual data analysis and from a survey of Primary Schools. Projects are often longer term, to tackle some of the ongoing key issues for Leicester pupils. Priorities were reviewed in May 2019, using the Leicester Primary Partnership as a forum.

The work is commissioned from Leicester Primary Partnership by the School Development Support Agency.

Current projects, well-known to schools include:

Developing the curriculum	Second Year Writing Project - Cohort 4
KTC (Phonics)	New LA writing exemplification (GDS)
Voice Leicester	EAL Network meetings
KS2 Reading Programme	EAL Hubs
KS2 Writing Mastery (Year 5)	Word Aware
EYFS National literacy Trust	New Maths Projects
English Subject Leader Hub (KS1 & KS2)	Cross authority project provided by KYRA
Y6 Greater Depth Standard Writing Project	3 yr project

Those in development or early stages include:

- Improving attendance
- Improve Science outcomes
- Improve SEND provision
- Improve school Financial Management
- Developing Governance

Academies can buy into most of these programmes but it is intended to extend traded opportunities further in 2019-2020

For further information please contact Giles Osborne, Project Lead – 0116 454 4308.

5b. WHATEVER IT TAKES – TO GET EVERY CHILD IN LEICESTER READING

Whatever it Takes (WiT) is Leicester's city-wide initiative to get every child in Leicester reading. Funded by schools, the initiative is a collaborative approach focused on raising literacy levels across the city and dedicated to ensuring that, as a city, we are ALL reading for pleasure.

WiT co-ordinates central events, training and projects for schools that aim to:

- ✓ Provide inspiration and contribute to helping build a positive reading culture.
- ✓ Support the training and development of staff in schools who lead, teach and support reading activities.
- ✓ Help schools provide effective, targeted work for some of their more vulnerable learners.

- ✓ Provide better value for schools through the benefits of economies of scale when schools work together.

Dedicated project work and an effective planning board of reading practitioners secure a sense of purpose and value for money across the projects that contribute to WiT's continuing success. Although a separate funding stream, the strategic management of WiT is overseen by the Closing the Gap Steering Group. This ensures that work aligns with and contributes to the wider literacy work taking places across the city.

Projects included within the WiT central offer include:

Reading Champions' Conferences - an excellent opportunity for colleagues from across the city to discuss and share current practices around reading and literacy. Conferences are led by external keynotes to support and advise delegates, offering innovative ideas and strategies to use back in the classroom.

CPD Programme - a range of free, high-quality training opportunities throughout academic year to support the teaching and learning of reading. The current offer includes BRWP, Read Write Inc. Fresh Start, Vocabulary Gap training and supporting pupils to choose books. Whatever it Takes also contributes to the funding of the 'Leadership of KS2 Reading Programme'.

*Author Week 'on tour' – over a two-week period WiT arranges for a number of highly inspirational children's authors to visit the city. **Every** school will receive a half- day visit from an author of their choice to come and work with their pupils.*

Our Best Book - the Leicester Libraries annual fiction book award for year 5/6 pupils. Whatever it Takes funds the school contribution to support involvement in the project.

For further information please click here to download the [2019-20 brochure](#) or contact:

Kate Drurey, WiT Project Manager - kate.drurey@sdsa.net

5c. ACADEMIC COACHING

Academic Coaching is a local, Leicester developed programme that provides a small amount of regular, weekly 1 to 1 support for vulnerable Year 6 learners. The programme blends maths and English learning support, self-esteem coaching and help with learning to learn strategies.

The Academic Coaching programme provides pupils with a revised workbook and teachers/coaches with revised training sessions which are both in line with the new curriculum.

Schools are required to identify Y6 pupils who are assessed in October as potentially capable, but with a high risk of not achieving age related expectations. The numbers of pupils are required for workbooks and monitoring of the scheme. The criterion for inclusion in the scheme is solely pupil led.

For the 2020/21 academic year, schools will again not receive funding for this programme. They are however, encouraged to continue their involvement as the improvements supported/created by the scheme in the last few years have undoubtedly made a major contribution to the overall gains made in KS2 SATS increases seen across the city. While it is too simplistic to attribute the overall city-wide improvements to Academic Coaching it is inevitably making a significant impact.

SDSA is happy to continue to co-ordinate the Academic Coaching programme as described above though it should be noted that participation by schools has dropped in recent years to around 25% of those with a KS2. More schools take a coaching approach but are organising this themselves and not accessing the programme's training, workbooks or monitoring arrangements. SDSA do not think it would be viable to offer Academic Coaching as a traded offer.

For further information please contact Rebecca Smith, SDSA – 0116 299 5942

6. ADDITIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

In previous years this de-delegated funding has provided for both an enhanced assessment and moderation offer and the support required for the work of the Local Authority School Improvement team. Last year, assessment and moderation and school improvement Leicester were treated as one item called Primary School Improvement and included under the heading Support For Underperforming Ethnic Minority Groups And Bilingual Learners.

The DfE now allow school improvement projects to be a de-delegated item and they no longer need to be categorised under support for ethnic minority groups

During 2019-2020 the two strands have now been separated into two de-delegated services as described below. These school improvement projects supplement the local authority's statutory work for which it receives a separate school improvement grant.

6a). ASSESSMENT AND MODERATION

The assessment and moderation activity and associated training and development of teachers and middle leaders in primary schools has led the local authority to have well-regarded and moderated teacher assessment processes which support the statutory assessment at EYFS, KS1 and KS2 and assessment in other years. It has been beneficial to schools, working in development groups, to have coordinated development in assessment and moderation that identifies the next steps in learning.

In order to have stability in assessment leadership in the local authority and continue with the following core activities for all schools it is proposed to continue to fund the current 4 part time consultants (2.2FTE) though de-delegation and through a traded offer to academies at the same rate.

It is proposed to continue with the current quality moderation guidance and support for schools through:

- Providing a programme of training events for all schools in relation to statutory assessment and moderation – eg new to year group training, subject updates training and workshops, statutory moderation meetings for all teachers in assessment year groups. (schools may be charged for venue and refreshment costs for these events)
- Providing a programme of training events (schools may be charged for venue and refreshment costs for these events)
- Quality conversations with year group teachers about progress towards outcomes – led by trained moderators.

- Providing targeted and bespoke support to schools to support them in improving assessment and moderation within the school. Eg – training and support for lead moderators for each development group,
- Training and development offer for moderators
- Providing network coordination for key practitioners such as assessment leaders, phase leaders.
- Additional bespoke activity that will be available through an additional traded offer would include activities such as: support and development on writing; 1 to 1 moderator support to identify next steps in learning; in school review of assessment for learning practice; additional support for development group, triad or academy trust moderation and assessment activity; mentoring and coaching for lead moderators

The statutory monitoring and moderation will continue to be provided and paid for by the LA for each key stage.

For further information contact Sue Welford at sue.welford@Leicester.gov.uk

6b PRIMARY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT - SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT LEICESTER

School Improvement Leicester is co-ordinated by Leicester Primary Partnership (LPP). LPP trades a core school improvement offer to all schools, which is paid for directly by schools. In addition, an enhanced offer is paid for by maintained schools through these de-delegated funds. The enhanced offer is available for academies to buy.

The enhanced offer allows schools to access:

- three days, rather than one, of School Improvement Partner time,
- two days of Specialist Leader of Education or consultant time,
- a rolling programme of two-day in-depth peer reviews.

The work is commissioned from Leicester Primary Partnership by the School Development Support Agency

For further information contact Liz Warren 0116 299 5978

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED DE-DELEGATED SERVICES AND RATES

The table services listed in the tables below are suggested to be de-delegated in 2020/21. The figures shown are based on the 2019/20 pupil numbers. The final total de-delegated sums will change according to the October 2019 pupil census which will be used for the 2020/21 budgets.

De-Delegation Service	Primary 2020/21		Secondary 2020/21		Total 2020/21
	Amount £000	Per Pupil £	Amount £000	Per Pupil £	Amount £000
SEMH service <i>2019/20 Rate</i>		<i>30.46</i>			
Proposed rates:					
Option 1	748	36.55			748
Option 2	655	31.98			655
Option 3	624	30.46			624
Support for underperforming ethnic minority groups & bilingual learners ⁱ	351	17.19			351
Additional School Improvement ⁱⁱ	286	14.00			286
Free School Meal Eligibility	Both services to convert to a traded offer				
Licences/subscriptions					
<i>2019/20 Rate</i>		<i>3.96</i>		<i>6.00</i>	
Staff costs for TU facility time	85	4.16	41	6.30	121

i. Breakdown of Support for underperforming ethnic minority groups & bilingual learners funds

Description	Primary 2020/21		<i>2019/20 Rates</i>
	Amount £000	Per Pupil £	<i>Per Pupil £</i>
Closing the Gap projects	184	9.00	<i>12.38</i>
Whatever it Takes	143	7.00	<i>7.00</i>
Academic Coaching	24	1.19	<i>1.19</i>
	351	17.19	<i>20.57</i>

ii. Breakdown of Additional School Improvement

Primary School Improvement	184	9.00	<i>16.33</i>
Assessment and Moderation	102	5.00	
	286	14.00	<i>16.33</i>

For your information the questions are set out below. However please complete the separate response form if you would like to respond to this consultation.

Question

SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH TEAM (SEMH TEAM) FOR LEICESTER CITY PRIMARY SCHOOLS (TICK ONE)

Yes – continue to de-delegate*	
No – end de-delegation at the end of March 2020	

*If answered Yes above, please also select one of the following options:

Option 1 continue at £36.55 per pupil	
Option 2 continue at £31.98 per pupil	
Option 3 continue at £30.46 per pupil	

Comments:

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FREE SCHOOL MEAL ELIGIBILITY

Please comment if you have any objections to this service converting to a traded offer:

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LICENCES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please comment if you have any objections to this service converting to a traded offer:

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STAFF COSTS FOR TU FACILITY TIME (TICK ONE)

Yes – continue to de-delegate	
No – end de-delegation at the end of March 2020	

Comments:

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SUPPORT FOR UNDERPERFORMING ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS AND BILINGUAL LEARNERS

Closing the Gap (tick one)

Yes – continue to de-delegate	
No – end de-delegation at the end of March 2020	

Comments:

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Whatever it Takes (tick one)

Yes – continue to de-delegate	
No – end de-delegation at the end of March 2020	

Comments:

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Academic Coaching (costs of training and printing of workbooks only) (tick one)

Yes – continue to de-delegate	
No – end de-delegation at the end of March 2020	

Comments:

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Additional School Improvement:

Primary school improvement (tick one)

Yes – continue to de-delegate	
No – end de-delegation at the end of March 2020	

Comments:

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Assessment and moderation (tick one)

Yes – continue to de-delegate	
No – end de-delegation at the end of March 2020	

Comments:

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We would welcome your thoughts on whether all of the above de-delegated services should be converted to a traded arrangement from 2020/21.

Comments:

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