

Proposal to Suffolk Schools' Forum for funding Headteacher Associations from Retained LA funding

In the current fragmented educational climate, headteacher associations play a vital role in maintaining and fostering collaboration and collegiality. With the changing roles of Local Authorities and their declining involvement in school improvement, headteacher associations need to play a greater role in school to school support and to be the promoters of good practice. Both SASH and the newly developed SPHA have these shared aims. They both have appointed part-time professional officers, but very limited time to develop their services, as schools struggle with subscriptions due to budgetary pressures. More secure funding would allow a much greater input from headteacher associations and their professional offices in raising standards and outcome for Suffolk pupils.

Considering the generous contributions Schools' Forum made to the Trade Unions, of £77,415, the funding of the Headteacher Associations would have far greater impact on improving standards in Suffolk and would see more tangible benefits for pupils.

Therefore, the proposal to schools' forum is to fund the Headteacher associations centrally from the DSG. However, to ensure that the burden of this funding does not fall on school budgets, we propose Schools' Forum re-allocates some of the existing funding streams from the retained budgets, so as not to impact any further on the AWPU. We know that these centrally retained deductions from the DSG, (£7,927,799 m) should be reviewed in the light of the new funding proposals and the changing role of LAs, so this is a good time to look at their future use.

- Currently school improvement teams are funded from the DSG, along with many other deductions for centrally retained costs. Therefore, it would be logical to channel some of the £1,845,154, currently used to provide Education and Learning Support, to the Heads Associations.
- Similarly, the £714,599 currently retained for school support could be used.
- Another area to review might be the £2,449,131 used for Early help teams, which seems a rather generous contribution, if compared with neighbouring counties.
- Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services have a generous £170,100 contribution, which should come out of the health budget and the DSG currently underwrites.
- There may also be some residual underspends (£1m?) from the DSG which could be used more creatively if we had that information in advance of budget setting.

We would suggest that £50,000 p.a. is allocated to both the Primary and Secondary Associations to improve communications and develop wider school to school support mechanisms. Our recommendation is that it comes from the £1,845,154 for Education & Learning.

For Special and PRU schools, we would propose that £5,000 (£2500 to Secondary and £2500 to Primary Associations) to be allocated to pay for block membership to both headteacher organisations and negate the need for membership fees for these small schools. To ensure sustainability, Schools Forum is asked to commit to 3 years of funding, by which time the financial

reforms will be in place and funding streams can be reviewed. This type of delegation to heads associations already works well in Essex and in other counties and is within DfE guidelines on expenditure from the DSG.

Impact on Budgets

The impact of this proposal on schools' budgets should be **nil**, as the impact would be on LA spending from the retained block. However, we can estimate the **opportunity cost** of this proposal as being:

- The cost per pupil in Primary would be £0.94 per pupil (£52,500/ 56051 pupils) or 0.00024% of the primary AWPU @ £3947 (LA Budget commentary 2016/17)
- The cost per pupil in Secondary would be £1.47 per pupil (£52,500/ 35767 pupils) or 0.00034% of the secondary AWPU @ £4351 (LA Budget commentary 2016/17)

Options for the Opportunity Costs to Schools

Option A Joint Bid - As above allowing Special schools and PRUs to be automatically members of SPHA/SASH, both of whom have a revised remit and aims for supporting school to school support.

SASH/SPHA members to have a 50% reduced subscription rate, according to size, and thus allowing all secondary/Primary phase schools access to the updates, conferences, training and data alongside LA colleagues.

- The notional cost per pupil in Primary would be £0.94 per pupil (£52,500/ 56051 pupils) or 0.00024% of the primary AWPU @ £3947 (LA Budget commentary 2016/17)
- The notional cost per pupil in Secondary would be £1.47 per pupil (£52,500/ 35767 pupils) or 0.00034% of the secondary AWPU @ £4351 (LA Budget commentary 2016/17)

N.B No actual cost to schools

Option B – If a joint bid is not agreed

Separate allocations to SASH

- The notional cost per pupil in Secondary would be £1.47 per pupil (£52,500/35767 pupils) or 0.00034% of the secondary AWPU @ £4351 (LA Budget commentary 2016/17)

SASH members to have a reduced subscription rate 50% according to size and thus allowing all secondary phase schools access to the updates, conferences, training and data alongside LA colleagues. Those who don't wish to be members to have their AWPU increased by the appropriate amount but pay full price for any services e.g. updates, events, conferences, training and data. Special Schools and PRUs automatically members.

N.B No actual cost to schools

Madeleine Vigar

Cheryl Singleton

Sarah Wood

Chair of SASH

Co-Chair of SPHA

Co-Chair of SPHA



SASH
Suffolk Association
of Secondary Heads
Stronger Together

SPHA
Suffolk Primary Headteachers' Association

October 2016