

REPORT TO: Schools Forum

DATE: 20th March 2019

REPORTING OFFICER: Senior Finance Officer

SUBJECT: Overview of School Grants for 2019-20

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To report to the Schools Forum an overview of the specific grants, excluding the Dedicated Schools Grant, relating to schools for 2019-20.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 2.1 The report is noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Additional Grant to Schools – Primary PE and Sport

The Primary PE and Sport Grant is allocated for each academic year. We are notified of each school's allocation towards the end of October each year with the first payment, which is for the September to March period, being paid to the LA on 30th October.

The second payment is paid to the LA on 30th April each year, which is why we can include this grant as an actual amount in your budget upload. No budget is set for the October payment until the new allocations are announced.

The premium must be used to fund additional and sustainable improvements to the provision of PE and sport, for the benefit of primary-aged pupils, to encourage the development of healthy, active lifestyles. The Department for Education has published information on how much PE and sport premium funding primary schools receive and advice on how to spend it.

3.2 Universal Infant Free School Meals

The UIFSM grant is allocated for each financial year in June, with a provisional allocation for the next academic year and a final adjustment for the current academic year – hence you will see two budget figures for this grant.

The grant calculation is based upon the number of pupils recorded as taking a meal in Year 1 and Year 2 in the October and January censuses. The DfE will then calculate the average number of eligible pupils in Years 1 and 2 and will add on either the average number or

the actual number of eligible Reception pupils, whichever is the greater.

The grant supports schools in delivering the legal requirement to offer free school meals, meeting the school food standards, to all their reception, year 1 and year 2 pupils. Subject to meeting this legal duty, schools may spend the grant for the purposes of the school; that is to say for the educational benefit of pupils registered at that school, or for the benefit of pupils registered at other schools.

They may also spend it on community facilities, for example services whose provision furthers any charitable purpose for the benefit of pupils at the school or their families, or people who live or work in the school's locality. Schools do not have to spend the entire grant in the financial year beginning 1 April 2018; they may carry forward some or all the grant.

3.3 Pupil Premium

The Pupil Premium Grant is allocated for each financial year. We are notified of the allocations prior to the first payment to the LA which is on 30th June. As this grant can make a significant impact on budget setting, we provide an estimated figure based upon FSM Ever6 pupils on the October census.

The grant is actually based upon the January census, so for the majority of schools we need to do an adjustment, plus or minus, to get from the estimated figure to the actual figure.

In December we receive the updated allocation for the Pupil Premium element for Looked After Children. This is controlled by the Virtual School Head Teacher and is allocated to schools following submission of Personal Education Plans, where the school has set out what support they aim to provide and the cost.

However, this update also impacts on the allocations to schools, as we see that some children who have previously been counted as being eligible for FSM Ever 6 being switched to LAC. In this instance, we have to reduce funding to schools as the grant is paid to the VSH.

The Pupil Premium Grant aims to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils of all abilities to reach their potential. An element of PPG also supports children and young people with parents in the regular armed forces.

3.4 Year 7 Catch Up Premium

This grant is allocation for a financial year and is paid to LA's at the end of February each year. We are notified in the latter half of February of the allocations by the DfE. The DfE have used the same approach for 2018-19 as in previous years.

3.5 Post 16

This grant is specific to maintained schools with a sixth form. The calculations are based on lagged pupil numbers and funding is allocated for each academic year. The grant typically includes an element (or elements) for programme funding plus Student Financial Support Funding, otherwise known as Bursary funding.

We have been informed that the allocations for the 2019-20 academic year have been issued.

3.6 Free School Meals Supplementary Grant

This grant was new for 2018-19 and will continue into 2019-20. As school funding operates on a lagged basis, the DfE have recognised this impact of the costs of providing extra meals before the lagged funding catches up.

For 2019-20 the allocation will be based on the difference between the number of meals taken by pupil eligible for free school meals as recorded on the October 2019 census, less the same as recorded on the October 2018 census. For each school with a positive difference, they will receive £440 per eligible pupil.

Where a school has fewer eligible pupils on the October 2019 census than on their October 2018 census, they will receive no funding and will not have any funding recovered.

The LA will receive payment of this grant at the end of February each year and will be notified of the individual school allocations shortly before payment is made.

3.7 Teachers' Pay Grant

A new grant in 2018-19 which will continue into 2019-20. The DfE has taken the overall annual pay bill for teachers, including additional costs such as pensions and national insurance, and have applied the average percentage uplift of the announced 2018 to 2019 pay award.

As the uplift was applied from 1st September 2018, the grant for 2018-19 only applied to 7/12ths of the year. The grant for 2019-20 will apply for the full year.

Allocations were notified to LA's in October and the grant paid to the LA at the end of October. Due to their calculation error, a supplementary payment was made at the beginning of December. It is unknown if the timescale for payment, i.e. October, will continue for 2019-20.

We were assured at the National Fair Funding Conference in Bristol in October that this grant will continue and at some point in the future will be rolled into the Dedicated Schools Grant, but the DfE have to work out how to do this.

3.8 Teachers' Pension Grant

A new grant announced at the NFF Conference in October. We have been told it will come into effect from 1st September 2019 and will fully fund the cost of the increase in Teachers' Pensions. How it will be calculated and when it will be notified to LA's or paid to LA's is unknown.

Again, we were assured that this grant will continue and at some point in the future will be rolled into the DSG.

3.9 Devolved Formula Capital

This grant is allocated for each financial year and has a three-year spend period. Grant allocated for 2019-20 can be spent across 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22. Should a school not spend the grant within this timescale, as long as the school has firm plans to spend it by the end of the summer break in 2022 the grant can be classed as spent on the LA return. Otherwise, the LA has to report the grant as unspent and it will be recovered by the DfE.

The LA is notified of the individual school allocations and the funds are devolved to the 55** cost centres. The LA only receives the grant for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools. VA schools have their allocations paid to their Diocese.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The specific grants are received with allocated amounts per school. The LA devolves the grants to schools as quickly as possible after they have been received.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 Children & Young People in Halton

It is essential that schools and education support services receive sufficient funding to allow them to support all children and young people.

5.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

None.

5.3 A Healthy Halton

None.

5.4 A Safer Halton

None.

5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 Each grant has its own conditions of grant, including certification of the amounts devolved by the LA and/or the amounts spent by each school. Should these conditions not be met by a school, there is a likelihood that the school will see the recovery of all or part of the grant. It is therefore important that each school fully understands the conditions of the grant to minimise the risk of recovery of funds by the DfE.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 The Local Authority must discharge its statutory responsibilities in relation to all schools and settings.