

REPORT TO: Schools Forum

DATE: 20th March 2019

REPORTING OFFICER: Senior Finance Officer

SUBJECT: Health and Safety De-delegation 2019-20

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To report to the School Forum on the Health and Safety de-delegation for 2019-20.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

2.1 The report is noted.

2.2 Schools Forum maintained school representatives decide whether to support the Health and Safety de-delegation for 2019-20.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Work has been completed to identify the support provided to schools outside of the Service Level Agreement for which DSG funding is sought.

3.2 As required by the Department for Education, the Council has statutory duties with regard to health and safety at maintained schools. These include:

- Through regular reviews, monitor health and safety performance to ensure appropriate standards are maintained. Providing reports with recommendations where development and/or improvement is required.
- Provide health & safety policies and procedures, containing advice for schools to implement and respond in order to meet legal requirements.
- Analysis of accident statistics and maintenance of other statutory records. Scrutinise incident forms and follow up where details are missing.
- Assisting schools in carrying out accident investigation and notification to the Health and Safety Executive of reportable incidents as per legal requirements. Provide advice on general incident investigations when required.
- Statutory consultation with unions and professional associations, addressing any concerns their members may have with standards of health and safety.

- 3.3 Roughly 40% of costs relate to support for maintained schools which equates to £60,000 for 2019-20, with the breakdown below:

Staffing	£37,384
Supplies & Services	£8,780
Central Recharges	£13,836

Supplies & Services includes costs for subscriptions and licences.

- 3.4 Appendix A shows the cost per school should this be agreed.
- 3.5 As mentioned at January's Schools Forum, the Schools Block funding formula which specifies de-delegated items has been submitted and cannot be changed. Should this funding be agreed, as a one-off we will invoice maintained chequebook schools for their contribution and will complete a journal for non-chequebook schools.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 If de-delegation is refused for any budget by any phase of maintained schools the Council will need to decide whether it can source other funding to support the service(s).

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 Children & Young People in Halton

Support services for children in schools is directly impacted by de-delegated budget decisions.

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 There is a risk to the Council that funding for staff and services in place to

provide support to children in schools may be reduced should Maintained Schools representatives on Schools Forum wish to reject any de-delegated budget. There is a risk that schools will not fulfil statutory duties with regard to health and safety compliance.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

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