

REPORT TO: School Forum
DATE: 29th January 2013
REPORTING OFFICER: Senior Finance Officer
SUBJECT: Finance Service Level Agreements
WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform School Forum of the proposals for new SLA's to be offered from April 2013.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) School Forum notes the report;**
- (2) School Forum agrees to the proposals for the SLA's to be costed and worked up.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Financial Management Division currently operate a Maternity Scheme whereby schools that opt into the scheme share the cost of maternity leave between them on a pro-rata basis of their total LMS budgets.
- 3.2 It has now been agreed to explore continuing with the scheme if sufficient numbers of schools opt in. There are currently six schools that have opted out of the scheme for 2012-13. The more schools that opt out the higher the charge will be for the remaining schools.
- 3.3 The cost of servicing this scheme will be explored however the estimates are that this may work out at less than £10.00 per school for the year.
- 3.4 As part of the School Funding Reform responsibility for recoupment of charges for pupils attending Halton schools who are the responsibility of other Local Authorities will fall to individual schools from April 2013. Top-up payments must be paid to schools on no less than a monthly basis.
- 3.5 Following discussion with other North West LA's to ease the administrative burden it is being recommended that LA's continue to act as a central recoupment body for all schools within the authority.
- 3.6 The Financial Management Division are willing to offer a Service Level Agreement to schools from April 2013 to act as a recoupment body to calculate and invoice other LA's for income and to pass monies to

schools on a termly basis. In Halton we are considering operating recoupment on a similar basis as the Early Years Single Funding Formula. In this, we calculate funding based on pupils in place at the start of the term and pay this to the appropriate schools. At the end of each term, the school will complete a return on recoupment pupils. The next payment will be adjusted up or down based on the return.

- 3.7 For recoupment we will again look at the cost of providing this service. It will also be possible to offer this SLA to Academies and Free Schools and the cost will also be identified.

4.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
School Funding Reform: Arrangements for 2013-14	Kingsway House	Anne Jones