

**SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM**  
**17<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

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**Consultation on the School and Early Years Finance Regulations 2014  
and additional grant conditions for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)  
(Director of Wellbeing)**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform Schools' Forum of the DfE's proposed new School and Early Years Finance Regulations 2014 and additional grant conditions for the DSG. The regulations are currently the subject of a consultation that ends on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2014 and Schools' Forum can decide whether it wishes to reply to the consultation.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Schools' Forum are asked to note the DfE's proposed new School and Early Years Finance Regulations 2014 and additional grant conditions for the DSG and decide whether it wishes to make a reply to the consultation.

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The DfE have made a number of changes to the regulations and grant conditions and those that affect Slough are detailed below.

**4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 None.

**5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 5.1 The changes highlighted below are the significant changes. I have also added comments in italics where I felt that it would be useful. Appendix A is the Schools and Early Years Finance Regulations 2014 document released by the DfE, and contains details of all changes.

Some of the changes have previously been published as part of the Fairer schools funding arrangements for 2015 to 2016. The impact of the Fairer schools funding is to establish at a national level a minimum basic per pupil amount and minimum amounts reflecting other pupil and school characteristics.

**Regulation 3** makes amendments to the Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012. The principal changes to the membership of the forum are:

- That if there are any special academies in the local authority's area, there must be at least one member representing them;
- That if there are any alternative provision (AP) academies in the local authority's area, there must be at least one member representing them.

The purpose of these changes is to strengthen the representation on the forum of special provision and AP respectively.

**Regulation 14(1) and paragraph 18 of Schedule 2** - these changes would mean the dedicated schools grant must not be used to fund places or top-up for 19 to 25 year olds in maintained special schools and special academies.

*This reflects the current position that young people with statements cannot remain in special schools beyond age 19. Without these changes, the introduction of EHC plans would otherwise create an anomaly under the existing funding regulations for maintained special schools.*

**Regulation 14(3)** implements, with transitional provision, the change in value for an AP place from £8,000 to £10,000 a year.

**Regulation 16 and Schedule 2, paragraph 15(c)** require local authorities to pay the early years pupil premium (of 53p per hour) to all early years providers that are delivering Government-funded early education to eligible three-and four-year-olds.

*This is new money that is being made available for Early Years settings.*

**Regulation 21(2)** makes revised provision for the determination of budgets for new maintained schools and for schools that have opened in recent years and are still adding year groups. Such schools are to be funded on the basis of estimated rather than actual pupil numbers.

*Any difference between estimated and actual numbers may be corrected for in the following financial year. The purpose of this change is to allow more discretion to local authorities in funding such schools, rather than requiring them to apply to the Secretary of State for a variation in every case. This does not apply to already established schools that are going through an expansion.*

**Schedule 2, paragraph 14** has been extended so that early years expenditure held centrally cannot relate to an excluded provider.

**Paragraph 18 of Schedule 2** has been amended to reflect the provisions in the Children and Families Act. It now includes persons aged between 19 and 25 years of age with an EHC plan, but not where they are attending schools or academies.

## 5.2 Proposed changes to conditions of grant

The dates in the conditions of grant will be updated by one year so that they relate to the financial year 2015-16. There are no other proposed changes.

## **6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

### Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The relevant legal provisions are contained within the main body of this report.

### Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Resources

- 6.2 The financial implications of the report are outlined in the supporting information.

### Access Implications

- 6.3 There are no access implications.

## **7 CONSULTATION**

### Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 None.

### Method of Consultation

- 7.2 Not applicable.

### Representations Received

- 7.3 Not applicable.

### Background Papers

DfE Paper – School and early years finance. Summary of proposed changes to regulations and conditions of grant for 2014

### Contact for further information

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