

## Appendix 1

### Report on the Outcomes of the Pre-Consultation on Additional Support Delegated Funding.

The Additional Support Task and Finish group sought the views of headteachers in a pre-consultation exercise in order to inform a fully costed consultation paper. Background information was provided to headteachers (see Appendix A).

- 42 (47%) headteachers responded to the pre-consultation questionnaire.
- 8 Secondary Headteachers, 33 Primary School Headteachers + 1 anonymous respondent
- Headteachers were provided with the opportunity to attend an information seminar 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

The responses to the questions asked were as follows.

#### **1. Would you like the entire additional support budget (money and people) to be delegated to schools?**

- Yes (20) **48%**
- No (22) **52%**

#### **Reasons for 'Yes' included,**

More autonomy, more transparency, flexibility, more effective & responsive provision, reduction in bureaucracy, funding could be pooled, own choice of staff.

#### **Reasons for 'No' included,**

- Costs in terms of bureaucracy.

#### **2. What percentage of the additional support budget should be retained by the local authority as a contingency fund and how would you see a central contingency fund being utilised?**

- % of additional support budget to be retained ranged from 5- 10%, 15-20%, 30 -50%

#### **Comments on how a contingency fund could be utilised.**

- Short term emergency situations, e.g. when a child moves schools or moves into the authority.
- This fund would need to have rigid criteria and be possibly for a maximum of 6/8 weeks.

- "Rapid Response Team" of say 3/4 TAs or specialist staff.
- Safety net for schools when situations become so difficult, unexpectedly, that support is needed to proceed
- Used to deal with an extreme / unpredicted situation on a case by case evaluation but for a short term intervention.

**3. Do you agree that FSM should be included as a factor in the delegated funding formula?**

- Yes (25) **60%**
- No (17) **41%**
- **What priority should the FSM element have?**
- High (50% - 60%) (9) **36%**
- Medium (20% - 30%) (10) **40%**
- Low (5% - 10%) (6) **24%**

**4. Do you agree that WIMD should be included as a factor in the delegated funding formula?**

- Yes (27) **64%**
- No (15) **36%**

**What priority should the WIMD element have?**

- High (50% - 60%) (9) **33%**
- Medium (20% - 30%) (13) **48%**
- Low (5% - 10%) (5) **19%**

**5. Do you agree that PLASC SEN numbers (SA+ and statements) should be included as a factor in the delegated funding formula?**

- Yes (39) **93%**
- No (3) **7%**

**What priority should the PLASC SEN element have?**

- High (50% - 60%) (28) **72%**
- Medium (20% - 30%) (11) **28%**
- Low (5% - 10%) (-)

**6. Do you agree that the numbers of pupils on roll should be included as a factor in the delegated funding formula?**

- Yes (28) **67%**
- No (14) **33%**

**What priority should the numbers of pupils on roll element have?**

- High (50% - 60%) (12) **46%**
- Medium (20% - 30%) (13) **50%**
- Low (5% - 10%) (1) **4%**.

**7 Do you agree that Pupil Attainments (National Test Outcomes) should be included as a factor in the delegated funding formula?**

- Yes (15) **38%**
- No (25) **63%**

**What priority should the Pupil Attainments (National Test Outcomes) element have?**

- High (50% - 60%) (4) **27%**
- Medium (20% - 30%) (8) **53%**
- Low (5% - 10%) (3) **20%**

**8. Do you agree that the pupils with EAL should be included as a factor in the delegated funding formula?**

- Yes (24) **57%**
- No (18) **43%**

**What priority should the EAL element have?**

- High (50% - 60%) (2) **8%**
- Medium (20% - 30%) (11) **46%**
- Low (5% - 10%) (11) **46%**

**9. Would you like any other elements to be included in the funding formula?**

- FP baseline at Nursery entry
- Extreme behaviours / mental health difficulties

- Families who have multiple agencies involved
- Exceptional circumstances need to be accommodated.

## **10. Grant –funded model**

**Would you like additional support funding to be based on the factors described above?**

- Yes (31) 80%
- No (8) 21%

### **Comments**

- Why no allocation for pupils with statements?
- WIMD & FSM should be included as well
- What about pupils who move schools?

## **11. Summary of pre-consultation outcomes**

- When the additional support budget is delegated the LA should retain a contingency 'pot' (people and / or money) which should be used to support emergency situations on a time- limited basis.

### **The following elements should be included in a funding formula**

- FSM - medium priority
- WIMD –medium priority
- PLASC SEN –high priority
- Numbers on roll –medium priority
- EAL – medium priority

The following element should not be included in a funding formula

- Pupil Attainments

## **Appendix A – Information provided to Headteachers.**

### **The Delegation of ALN funding to Local Authority maintained schools in Caerphilly County Borough.**

#### **Summary**

As part of the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) review the Additional Support Task and Finish group has been working on developing models for the delegation of additional support funding to schools.

The Additional Support Task and Finish group are seeking the views of headteachers in a pre-consultation exercise in order to inform a fully costed consultation paper, which will be circulated in the autumn term 2017.

Headteachers are asked to respond to this pre-consultation paper by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

- The deadline for completing your response is by 5pm on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017
- Responses received after this date will not be included.
- Outcomes from this pre-consultation exercise will be reported to headteachers at a meeting in the autumn term.

## Introduction

Caerphilly County Borough Council has a range of policies for special educational needs and inclusion, consistent with the Welsh Government's agenda for children and young people with additional learning needs (ALN).

The majority of local authorities across Wales have already delegated additional support funding to schools. In Caerphilly Local Authority (LA) funding for additional support for schools has historically been retained centrally. The budget for additional support is £3.6m; this includes the employment of 105 centrally employed teaching assistants. The major share of SEN expenditure is retained centrally but schools utilise the majority of SEN funding to undertake their responsibility for SEN provision. The overspend of this budget in 2016-17 was £252,000.

## Background to the Proposal

Delegation of ALN funding to schools in Caerphilly has been discussed with Headteachers over a number of years. As part of the ALN Review an Additional Support Task and Finish group was established in 2015 to consider options for delegation. The following headteachers have been nominated to represent their Clusters on the Task and Finish group.

| Cluster               | Representative                  |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Bedwas             | Vicky Jenkins Delf              |
| 2. Blackwood          | Julie Farmer / Nicola Williams  |
| 3. Heolddu            | Kathryn Thompson                |
| 4. Islwyn High        | Tim Williams                    |
| 5. Lewis              | Heather Duncan / Chris Parry    |
| 6. Newbridge /Cwmcarn | Catherine Mansell / Jackie Nash |
| 7. Risca              | Dave Witchell                   |
| 8. Rhymney            | Kathryn Thompson                |
| 9. St Cenydd          | Rebecca Collins / Claire Walsh  |
| 10. St Martins        | Tara Lloyd                      |
| 11. Ysgol Cwm Rhymni  | Ryan Jenkins                    |

Some recommendations from the group have already been agreed by headteachers and were implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017. These were:-

- From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 all primary schools with Nursery settings received a lump sum (£1,950) to cover support for toileting.
- From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 there will only be first day absence cover for pupils receiving 15 hours and above additional support. Cover for pupils receiving 1-14 hours will be considered after the third day of absence, day one cover will be provided for pupils receiving 12.5 hours support in a nursery setting. This will not apply where funding for additional support has been devolved to the school.

The principle upon which the Task and Finish group has based the need to change is that the current system is no longer fit for purpose and unsustainable. Feedback from the Additional Support Task and Finish Group to Headteachers in July 2016 identified that the current additional support allocation system was inflexible, bureaucratic and restrictive. It was recognised that the Local Authority and schools needed to work together to find a solution to what was described as a 'shared challenge'. Miss R Collins (Headteacher St Cenydd Community Comprehensive School) and Mr D Witchell (Headteacher, Cwmfelinfach and Ynysddu Primary Schools) informed the Headteacher meeting that,

**This is a shared challenge which requires an understanding from schools that,**

- funding for additional support is linked to a budget of £3.6m that is currently overspent;
- when additional support is linked to statements this reduces available funding for pupils at SA+ .

**This is a shared challenge which requires an understanding from the Local Authority that:-**

- schools need to be actively involved in decision making processes relating to additional support.;
- paperwork should be kept to a minimum – the focus should be on the impact additional support has on pupil outcomes.

The following principles were identified as being key to any proposed delegation system:-

- the system is creative and flexible and allows schools to effectively plan and manage additional support for pupils with ALN;
- the impact of additional support on pupil outcomes and value for money can be measured and evaluated.

## **The Proposal**

The Additional Support Task and Finish group consider that earlier intervention enabled by greater delegation would support the needs of many pupils in a more timely fashion and would more effectively support schools to meet their responsibilities as outlined in the draft ALN Reform Bill. Confidence of parents /carers and the understanding of health professionals are seen as key to the success of such an approach to funding ALN.

Headteacher representatives on the Task and Finish group were tasked with developing delegation models in consultation with their clusters. Following a meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017 delegation models were identified as having the potential for further consultation with all schools and relevant stakeholders.

**The Task and Finish group unanimously agreed that any delegated funding should be to individual schools which could either manage this funding independently or alternatively choose to pool delegated funds and work collaboratively in partnership with other schools.**

There is no pre-conceived idea on what would constitute a partnership arrangement. It is envisaged that these could be flexible and diverse and reflect the individual and collective needs of schools in Caerphilly. For example, partnership arrangements could be based on,

- secondary schools and their primary feeder schools;
- geographical location;
- existing joint working arrangements;
- 'family of school' groups

**The Task and Finish group also agreed that whatever factors are included in a funding formula that these should be based on a rolling three year average.**

The Task and Finish group would like the views of headteachers on the following.

- Whether the additional support budget should be fully delegated to schools with no element of the additional support budget ( money and people) retained by the LA **or** whether a contingency 'fund' should be held by the LA for strictly defined emergency situations;
- The second element refers to the funding formula which could be applied to delegated monies

Headteachers have been kept informed of developments relating to additional support delegation by Headteacher representatives on the Task and Finish group. However if headteachers would like more information on the work of the Additional Support Task and Finish group and on delegation funding models a briefing seminar will take place on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June, 10.30 – 11.30 in The Chamber at Ty Penallta.

## **Next Steps**

Following the pre-consultation phase the Task and Finish group will reconvene to consider the responses received from headteachers. Based on the responses received a consultation paper will then be written, which would include fully costed options. It is proposed that a full consultation process will take place in the autumn term 2017.