

Schools Management Forum

Report of: Faye Revely & Andrew Humble

Subject: 2019/20 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) – Central Services Block

Date: 27th February 2019

Purpose of the report

1. To provide a breakdown of services potentially to be provided from the Central Services Block retained budget.

DSG Central Services Block

2. The total of the Central Services Block for 2019/20 as per the settlement is £1,136,253 (this is approximately the same as for 2018/19). The services that are proposed to be funded from the Central Services Block in 2019/20 are as follows:

- Copyright Licences for Schools £106,187
- Admissions £190,000
- IT Infrastructure and support £102,351
- Speech & Language Contract £223,600
- Contribution to Local Authority Designated Officer £15,000
- Schools Forum £5,200
- SEN Home to School Transport £40,000
- Statutory Services for all Schools (previously funded by ESG) £335,900
- Central Services Overheads to support the above £164,129

3. If the services above are provided in the above amounts the total will be £46,114 above the allocated funding available, and therefore a decision is required on which services and the amount for each service to be funded from the Central Services Block.
4. It should be noted that this does not include the Early Help Practitioner posts, and proposals for the funding of these posts is discussed in Agenda Item 7 - De-Delegation of Services 2019/20 report.

Centrally Retained Budgets

5. The following paragraphs explain in a bit more detail the services being provided / paid for in each case.
6. The Copyright Licences budget pays for Copyright charges that the Council pay on behalf of all Middlesbrough Schools. These amounts are deducted at source from the Council's DSG allocation received from the DfE.

7. The Admissions service consists of 6 members of staff and also a budget for Admissions appeals which are ran by Hartlepool Council on our behalf. The Council also contributes £23,700 towards the overall cost of the service.
8. IT Infrastructure and support - a separate report has been produced by Andy Evans (Head of ICT Services – Middlesbrough Council) outlining the service which is provided from this budget (see attached Appendix A).
9. The Speech & Language budget pays for the Speech & Language SLA ran by South Tees CCG on behalf of all Middlesbrough Schools.
10. Contribution to Local Authority Designated Officer – This is a statutory post and provides safeguarding support and advice to all Middlesbrough Schools.
11. Schools forum – This budget pays for the room hire and administration costs of Schools forum meetings only. All other costs for officer support are included in other areas below.
12. SEN Home to School Transport – This is a contribution to the Home to School Transport service which is provided by the Council.
13. Statutory Services for all Schools – This budget covers the statutory services/posts that the LA have to administer on behalf Schools. These include the Education Welfare and Asset Management services. In addition to this the budget also includes a contribution towards the Executive Director and Management costs of the service.
14. The central overheads budget pays for the elements of support provided to Schools by Finance, HR/Payroll, Legal, Commissioning, Central Admin, and Accounts Payable and Receivable.

Recommendations

15. SMF members are asked to:
 - Note the details of the services proposed to be funded in 2019/20 from the Central Services Block retained budget, and provide a view on which services and the amount for each service to be funded from the Central Services Block within the allocated funding provided by the Government for the Central Services Block.