

## LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST

Meeting / Date	<b>SCHOOLS FORUM</b> <b>17 September 2014</b>	Agenda Item	<b>7</b>
Report Title	<b>Use of DSG Underspends</b>		
Decision/ Discussion/ Information	For Discussion and Decision		
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Appendices	Appendix A: Partnership Structures		

### 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 In June 2014 Schools Forum agreed to delegate proposals for the underspend to the Strategic Education Partnership Board.
- 1.2 This report presents Schools Forum with proposals of the Strategic Education Partnership Board to deploy the unallocated cumulative underspend in the DSG.

### 2 RECOMMENDATIONS

#### **Schools Forum to note:**

- 2.1 The cumulative unallocated underspend in the DSG of £3.854 million as at 31 March 2014.

#### **Schools Forum to agree:**

- 2.2 £1.000 million to be allocated to the Growth Fund.
- 2.3 £0.554 million to be allocated to the System Improvement Board
- 2.4 £0.300 million to be allocated to the Secondary Challenge
- 2.5 £2.000 million to be allocated to the Universal Offer

### 3. REASON

- 3.2 The Local Authority together with schools has identified several significant strategic challenges for schools and academies in Waltham Forest. These include:
  - Funding the expansion of school places;
  - Raising standards and reducing achievement gaps;
  - Implementing the SEND reforms;

- Establishing a coherent Early Help offer;
  - The funding cuts to the local authority which may restrict its activities to a statutory minimum;
  - The need to strengthen the school system, both via collaboration to drive improvement and developing CPD and Leadership.
- 3.3 The cumulative unallocated underspend provides a one-off opportunity to address these challenges.
- 3.4 **Strategic Intent**
- 3.4.1 Education in Waltham Forest is improving which reflects both the growing strength and dynamism within our school system and the effectiveness of local authority arrangements for education improvement. Nevertheless there is still a need to need to secure improvements and ensure sustainability.
- 3.4.2 These proposals are intended to move Waltham Forest to the next level by developing the capacity of schools for system leadership and improvement; maintaining and improving LA support during this period and building capacity in schools and the local authority to meet the demands of the next phase of improvement.
- 3.4.3 These proposals aim to strengthen the emerging Strategic Education Partnership structure. The Partnership is expected to enable a wider group of headteachers to engage in shaping strategic direction; provide a framework to enable a co-constructed improvement strategy and ensure greater accountability for monies allocated for collaborative or centralised activity. The draft structure is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

## 4. PROPOSALS

### 4.1 Proposal 1 – Growth Pressures £1.000 million

- 4.1.1 This proposal is dealt with in detail by a separate report, and proposed a similar amount to that carried forward in previous years. The report on Growth includes the need to:
- Protect Good schools with falling rolls;
  - Support Leadership and Management during expansion;
  - Fund the costs of additional classes; and
  - Meet the potential additional costs arising from expansions of Free Schools (£0.480 million)

### 4.2 Proposal 2 – System Improvement Board £0.554 million

- 4.2.1 This proposal address the strategic issue of strengthening the school system.
- 4.2.2 A new School-led board would be established to provide oversight and strategic drive for programmes to build leadership and workforce capacity across Waltham Forest.
- 4.2.3 Funding would be allocated to a designated school as budget holder and used to support:
- Leadership (part-time secondment or externally commissioned)

- Other facilitation – (admin, data support, Project officer)
  - Commissioned projects across schools or from partners
- 4.2.5 Accountability of this Board would be via termly reports to the Strategic Education Partnership on the use and impact of funding against a fully-costed action plan. There is an expectation of sustainability within the plan.

#### **4.3 Proposal 3 – Secondary Challenge £0.300 million**

- 4.3.1 Funding would be allocated to a designated school as budget holder and used to support:
- Leadership Facilitation
  - Admin, data and project support
  - Externally commissioned support, e.g. Challenge Partners Reviews, Masters Link with HE
- 4.3.2 Accountability would be to the School Improvement Group (SIG) via termly reports on the use and impact of funding against a fully-costed action plan
- 4.3.3 Consideration will be given to the possibility of merging the facilitation and admin costs associated with proposals 2 and 3 to ensure economies of scale

#### **4.4 Proposal 4 – Universal Offer £2.000 million**

- 4.4.1 This proposal would offset reductions in funding for non-statutory Local Authority school improvement and Early Help services and would secure these services to schools into 2016, giving time to maintain and improve the LA offer, proving its worth and ensuring long term sustainability. The local authorities would continue to fund statutory functions.
- 4.4.3 The funding would support a universal core offer to all schools and academies, agreed with them, that was “Customer” focused and accountable for quality through the Education Partnership.
- 4.4.5 For School Improvement this would support a range of activities to be agreed with schools but these may include:
- The emerging Education Partnership
  - Communication (seminars, briefings, the HUB, Key subscription)
  - A new Assessment Network
  - Critical leadership support – several recent high intensity issues
  - School Improvement Consultant Support beyond the statutory for activities to be directed by schools
  - A new Governor Development Offer
- 4.4.6 For Early Help this would support
- New Early Help Officers: area-based & school-focused, to broker and manage decisions on referrals to Children’s Social Care, Team Around the Child meetings, and CAF support
  - Education Welfare Support: New area-based expanded support for CME

- Parenting Support Offer – Triple P and Teen Triple P
- A core offer of CAMHS Support - Core offer
- A core offer of Speech and Language Support

## **5 CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 These proposals were agreed by the Strategic Education Partnership Board on 14 July 2014. Schools Forum Headteacher Representatives were also invited to this meeting.
- 5.2 Subject to agreement at Schools Forum, further detail on Proposals 2, 3 and 4 will be worked up with heads in the Autumn Term. This will include refining the approach to accountability and quality assurance for all proposals as well as agreeing the offer for Proposal 4.