



North Northants Schools Forum: 14 December 2022

Agenda Item 7

2023-24 De-delegation : School Effectiveness for Maintained Schools

Appendix I

1 Background

- 1.1 The School Effectiveness (SE) team is funded from the Central Schools Services Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).
- 1.2 The current team has a Head of Service.
- 1.3 An Associate Head Teacher (AHT) whose purpose is to:
 - lead and facilitate school improvement in schools causing concern and/or;
 - to provide additional support within individual settings to facilitate rapid improvement, and/or;
 - undertake the duties of the Head Teacher where a school maybe experiencing leadership issues.
- 1.4 It also consists of School Improvement Partners (SIPs) who work with Primary, Secondary and Early Years school-based settings including, Maintained Nursery Schools (MNS) and Governors.
- 1.5 School Effectiveness provide essential services enabling the school improvement partners and the Associate Head Teacher to provide direct support for maintained schools requiring specific targeted improvement including:
 - An Interim Head Teacher.
 - Head Teacher recruitment support
 - School- to-school support plans (general) approved by the Head of School Effectiveness.
 - School- to-school support for targeted outcomes or where progress is not rapid enough in target areas of phonics, reading, maths, SEND and pupil premium outcomes.
 - School-to-school support from other quality assured support.
- 1.6 This report covers
 - School Effectiveness Funding and review of Impact
 - Future Priorities
 - Recommendations for 2023-24

2 School Effectiveness Funding and Review of Impact

2.1 For 2022-23 School Effectiveness de-delegation was approved by North Northamptonshire Schools Forum in December 2022. Forum agreed to continue with School Effectiveness de-delegated funding of £12 per pupil from Maintained Schools to create an estimated budget for North Northamptonshire Maintained Schools in 2022-23.

2.2 The work of the School Effectiveness Team (SET) is focussed upon Maintained Schools which were judged by Ofsted to require improvement or to be inadequate. The team also work with Good and Outstanding schools that may experience any or all of the following:

- The outcome of a section 8, (or 'ungraded') inspection suggests, from the evidence gathered, that the inspection grade might not be as high if a full inspection were carried out meaning that the next inspection will therefore be a full section 5, ('graded') inspection;
- A school's provision for early reading and/or phonics is not sufficiently well developed or securely implemented.
- A school's curriculum provision requires improvement
- A school's data being below national average in one or more key measures or where data has declined significantly which may put them at risk of an adverse Ofsted inspection unless bespoke interventions were put in
- The school is at risk of an inadequate judgement or is given an inadequate judgement by Ofsted;
- The school is at risk of a Requiring Improvement (RI) judgement or is given a RI judgement for a first, second or further times by Ofsted;
- Safeguarding is not effective as judged by the Local Authority or by Ofsted;
- Leadership and Management is a cause for concern (including Governance);
- There are financial concerns
- Significant concerns with any or all of the following:
 - attendance
 - behaviour
 - exclusions

2.3 In 2022-2023 the SET was deployed as follows:

- Resourced 4 Targeted Improvement Group (TIG) processes in 4 schools actioning detailed support plans for those schools requiring intervention;
- Undertook above average visits in RI schools and in those Good schools where several improvement areas were identified;
- Secured the placement of an Associate Head Teacher (AHT) to support improvements for those schools requiring intervention where appropriate, above average SET visits, judged to be RI with a number of areas still needing to be improved or a TIG process;
- Reviews of governance and SEND;
- School-to-school reviews;
- Provide funding for the Pupil Premium focus project which will be ongoing this academic year.
- Delivering universal curriculum training
- Facilitating and leading on bespoke curriculum subject leader surgeries Spring Term

2.4 The **impact** has been:

- Overall the number of Good and Outstanding maintained primary schools in North Northants increased by 11% from 78% (September 2021) to 89% (July 2022).
- This is partly as a result of the work that SET Officers have undertaken, collaboratively with Head Teachers, Senior Leaders and staff, converting RI schools to Good, or maintaining the Good rating of schools which have needed higher than average levels of support.
- Of the pupils that attend maintained primary schools in North Northants, 88% of them are now attending Good/Outstanding maintained primary schools.
- As a consequence of the work that SET Officers undertook, collaboratively with Head Teachers, Senior Leaders in RI maintained primary schools last academic year, (September 2021 – July 2022), of the 6 inspected, 83% converted to Good with one school receiving a second RI.
- Overall, 63% of the North RI maintained schools have converted to Good during 2021-2022. There are 3 remaining RI maintained primary schools of which 2 are awaiting inspection this academic year.
- Therefore, in summary, inspections have all been favourable in the maintained primary schools supported by the DSG; and
- Headline data shows that Maintained Primary Schools in North Northants were:
 1. Higher than the National average, East Midlands average and the North Northants average in:
 - reading, writing and maths (RWM) combined at the expected standard in Key Stage 2 (KS2)
 - Progress for writing and progress for maths in KS2
 2. Broadly in line with the National average, East Midlands average and above the North Northants average in:
 - A Good Level of Development (GLD) for Early Years
 - Reading at the higher standard in KS2
 - Maths at the higher standard in KS2
 - Writing at the higher standard in KS2
 3. Maintained Primary Schools in North Northants were:
 - Below National and East Midlands regarding progress in Reading at KS2 but above North Northants overall in this aspect;
 - At Key Stage 1 (KS1) maintained primary schools in North Northants are broadly in line with National and East Midlands in Reading and Writing and above North Northants overall in these aspects;
 - At Key Stage 1 (KS1) maintained primary schools in North Northants are below National and East Midlands in Maths but above North Northants overall in this aspect.
- Although many improvements are evident this year, standards overall in North Northants are below national and below that of East Midlands, however data from July 2022 should be treated with caution as it is the first collection of such information since before COVID.
- Regarding all maintained schools, the SET will be working on an individual as well as a universal basis regarding the examination of data this academic year. Data will be considered as part of a wealth of other information such as inspection outcomes, the quality of leadership and management, quality of curriculum and its delivery and the quality of education overall in these schools rather than being treated in isolation and

most importantly the direction of travel over time of maintained schools will form part of that triangulation process.

2.5 **Future work:**

- Plan bespoke school improvement priorities together in collaboration with schools, using locality data;
- Improve outcomes in reading, writing and maths at KS2 across North Northants;
- Work together with maintained schools and MATS to improve outcomes for all pupils across North Northants, identifying good practice in locality areas;
- Continue to focus on and improve the 'quality of education' (the curriculum) so that schools maintain an ambitious curriculum that is aspirational for all pupils and groups of pupils and where pupil knowledge is securely built over time and across phases of education; and
- Reduce the achievement gap for disadvantaged pupils.

2.6 It is currently estimated School Effectiveness resources will be fully utilised in 2023-2024. In the unlikely event that School Effectiveness is not fully utilised at the end of March 2024, the underspend would be rolled forward to be used in future years for School Effectiveness.

3 **Proposed next steps**

3.1 The council intends to consult upon its intention to ask maintained schools' representatives to de-delegate for this purpose to £12 per pupil.

3.2 It should be noted that school improvement contributions from the DSG, known as the Local Authority Monitoring and Brokering (LAMB) Grant, will cease from April 1st 2023. This will mean less resource in this area for the Local Authority. However, due to the current pressures on school budgets, North Northamptonshire Council are not seeking to increase the de-delegation per pupil amount this financial year as a result of the cessation of this grant.

3.3 This amount will continue to help the LA to economically secure the continued provision of the services of the Associate Head Teacher (AHT) who will enable the LA to be more agile in responding to the needs of schools as well as build relationships with the sector.

3.4 Further conversion of one primary school into an academy since the 2022-23 de-delegated budget was set meant that there is currently less resource in the pot to deliver the required services going forward.

Council officers propose to include School Effectiveness de-delegation in the School Budget consultation with the following questions:

- a. Do you agree with the proposal for de-delegation to be made for maintained primary schools to create a maintained school improvement grant?

If yes:

- b. Do you agree with the proposed rate of £12 per pupil
- c. If no, what rate would you consider reasonable?

4 **Recommendations**

4.1 Schools forum members are asked to agree the consultation proposals and questions, or propose alternatives.

5 Financial implications

5.1 Should the consultation take place, Schools Forum will need to agree at its December meeting the de-delegation of £12 per pupil for maintained primary and secondary schools. This £12 per pupil will be deducted from the individual maintained schools' 2023-24 Post MFG Budget.

6 Legal implications

6.1 Under Schools Forum regulations, the responsible local authority has the power to propose to maintained schools de-delegate funding from maintained schools with agreement of its schools forum or any direction by the Secretary of State for Education.

Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
De-delegation for mainstream maintained schools for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">contingenciesadministration of free school mealsinsurancelicences/subscriptionsstaff costs – supply coversupport for minority ethnic pupils/underachieving groupsbehaviour support serviceslibrary and museum servicesSchool improvement	Proposes	Maintained primary and secondary school member representatives will decide for their phase. Middle schools are treated according to their deemed status	Will adjudicate where schools forum does not agree LA proposal

7.1 Risks

7.1 The risk, should schools forum not agree the de-delegation, is that the authority will not have the resources required to support and challenge schools causing concern. This is likely to result, at best, in standards failing to improve or, at worst, poorer pupil progress and achievement.

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