



**North Northants Schools Forum: 4 November 2021**

**Agenda Item 11**

**2022-23 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 consists of a Head of Service and Associate Head Teacher 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.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.2 School Effectiveness provide essential services enabling the school effectiveness team to broker support for maintained schools requiring additional support including:
- A team of well-qualified and experienced head teachers (partnership heads) who work with SIPs on school reviews, bespoke support and monitor progress against agreed objectives.
  - An Interim Executive Board chair.
  - Governing body review
  - School- to-school support plans (general) approved by the Head of School Effectiveness.
  - School- to-school support for targeted outcomes or where progress is slow in target areas of phonics, reading, maths, SEND and pupil premium outcomes.
  - School-to-school support from Partnership Head Teachers (PHTs), Local Leaders of Education (LLEs) and National Leaders of Education (NLEs);
- 1.3 This report covers
- School Effectiveness Funding and review of Impact
  - Future Priorities
  - Recommendations for 2022-23

## 2 School Effectiveness Funding and Review of Impact

- 2.1 For 2021-22 School Effectiveness de-delegation was approved by Northamptonshire Schools Forum in October 2020. Forum agreed to continue with School Effectiveness de-delegated funding of £7.50 per pupil from primary maintained schools to create an estimated budget of £67k for North Northamptonshire Maintained Schools in 2021-22.
- 2.2 School Effectiveness is being used to target maintained schools which were judged by Ofsted to require improvement or are in special measures, or:
- have a data dip or downward trend in outcomes that would put them at risk of an adverse Ofsted inspection unless bespoke interventions were put in place;
  - require improvement in pupil premium outcomes;
  - require improvement in reading outcomes
  - require School Effectiveness significant improvements to their curriculum provision to ensure that the quality of Education is at least Good as detailed in the School Inspection Handbook - See [here](#) for latest iteration updated September 2021.
- 2.3 School Effectiveness was used to:
- Resource school-to-school support plans for those schools requiring intervention;
  - Secure the placement of an executive head to support improvements for those schools requiring intervention and in schools placed into requires improvement or special measures;
  - Fund several reviews of governance and pupil premium;
  - Fund school-to-school support from partnership heads, LLEs and NLEs;
  - Provide initial funding for the Northamptonshire collaborative reading project;
  - Provide initial funding for the North Northamptonshire Curriculum Training launch;
  - Provide funding for the Pupil Premium focus project.
- 2.4 The **impact** has been:
- Schools of concern have become more focused on improving outcomes compared to national benchmarks and comparing their pupils' outcomes with those of similar pupils in similar schools, thereby raising aspiration of what can be achieved;
  - Outcomes in maintained schools have improved over 2018-19 in all KS2 measures except progress in maths;
  - The percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard and above in reading has risen to above national in maintained schools;
  - The improvement in reading at both expected standard and greater depth is 3% nationally and 5% across all Northamptonshire's schools;
  - Ofsted inspections have all been favourable in the schools supported by the DSG; and
  - Although many improvements are evident this year, standards remain below national and below that of statistical neighbours for many schools;
  - Schools requiring intervention that are causing concern and receiving direct input from AHT, high level input from SIPs or NLE targeted support, have received acknowledgement of improvement stated by Ofsted as 'taking effective action towards becoming good' in most recent Section 8 monitoring inspection outcome.

(Note: data on pupil premium outcomes are not available presently)

2.5 **Future priorities** are to:

- Continue to raise aspiration using FFT benchmark data;
- Improve progress and attainment in reading and phonics;
- Accelerate the rate of improvement in primary outcomes at key stages 1 and 2;
- Reduce the achievement gap for disadvantaged pupils and those with send; and
- Work with teaching schools and MATS to improve outcomes in primary maths for all pupils; and
- Continue to focus on and improve the 'quality of education' (the curriculum) so that schools continue to have a curriculum that is coherently planned and sequenced and one which is aspirational for all pupils and groups of pupils.

2.6 It is currently estimated School Effectiveness resources will be fully utilised in 2021-2022. In the unlikely event that School Effectiveness is not fully utilised at the end of March 2022, 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 increase de-delegation for this purpose to £15 per pupil.

3.2 This increase would help the LA to economically secure the provision of services of an Associate Headteacher who will enable the LA to be more agile in responding to the needs of schools as well as build relationships with the sector.

3.3 Further conversion of two primary schools into academies since the 2021-22 de-delegated budget was set meant that there is currently less resource in the pot to deliver the required services going forward.

3.4 The increase in employer's National Insurance contributions in the 2022-23 further exacerbates the resource issue.

3.5 This increase will generate a budget of £134k (based on the October 2020 census – this budget will be amended to reflect October 2021 census once the DFE Settlement is received in December 2021)

3.2 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 £15 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 £15 per pupil for maintained primary and secondary schools. This £15 per pupil will be deducted from the individual maintained schools' 2022-23 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"><li>contingencies</li><li>administration of free school meals</li><li>insurance</li><li>licences/subscriptions</li><li>staff costs – supply cover</li><li>support for minority ethnic pupils/underachieving groups</li><li>behaviour support services</li><li>library and museum services</li><li>School improvement</li></ul>	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.

### Report Authors:

Your name: Jo Hutchinson  
Your title: Head of School Effectiveness North  
Email address: [jo.hutchinson@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:jo.hutchinson@northnorthants.gov.uk)  
Telephone number: 07872148239

Your name: Yoke O'Brien  
Your title: Strategic Finance Business Partner – Children Services  
Email address: [yoke.obrien@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:yoke.obrien@northnorthants.gov.uk)