

LANCASHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

Date of meeting 2 July 2020

Item No 14 a

Title: Any Other Business

School funding: exceptional costs associated with coronavirus (COVID-19) for the period from March to July 2020

Executive Summary

The DfE published updated guidance around 'School funding: exceptional costs associated with coronavirus (COVID-19) for the period from March to July 2020' and made available the claims form.

Recommendations

The Forum is asked to:

- a) Note the report;
- b) Express any views on the DfE School funding: exceptional costs associated with coronavirus (COVID-19) for the period from March to July 2020 update.

Background

On 24 June 2020 the DfE published updated guidance around 'School funding: exceptional costs associated with coronavirus (COVID-19) for the period from March to July 2020' and made available the claims form.

The updated guidance, available [here](#), tightens the interpretation around some aspects of eligibility for the fund, and clarifies that other additional costs are ineligible. For example

- There is a revised section on the impact of schools' financial reserves on eligibility for this funding (schools that expect to add to their existing historic surpluses in their current financial year s are ineligible);
- Additional staff costs are ineligible;
- Any loss of self-generated income is ineligible;
- As schools proceed with a phased wider opening are to be met within existing resources, as any costs incurred as part of that process cannot be claimed through this fund.

The DfE has produced claim form guidance and an accompanying video, which are available [here](#)

The claim form is available via a [DfE Sign-in](#) account and the online form should be completed by **21 July 2020** for eligible exceptional costs incurred to the time of submission. DfE indicate that further claims will be possible in a subsequent claim window in the autumn and details regarding that process will be published later in the year.

There are 3 agreed cost categories against which schools can make a claim:

- increased premises related costs of keeping schools open over school holiday periods, for vulnerable children and children of critical workers
- support for free school meal (FSM) children who are not attending school, other than through the national voucher scheme
- additional cleaning, over and above existing cleaning arrangements, where you have a suspected or confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Schools are asked to read the guidance carefully before submitting claims to the DfE.

Enquiries about how to complete the online form should be directed to GrantPayments.ESFA@education.gov.uk.

All other enquiries about this funding should be directed to DfE.CoronavirusHelpline@education.gov.uk.

Information alerting schools to the guidance will be included in the LAs COVID-19 Bulletin.

