

Lancashire Schools Forum

eNewsletter

• Issue 121 • March 2022 •

Fair Exchange?

Welcome to Issue 121 of 'Fair Exchange?' a Post-Forum Edition of the eNewsletter of the Lancashire Schools' Forum.

Schools Forum March 2022

Schools Supplementary Grant 2022/23

DfE announcements indicate that school-level allocations of the schools supplementary grant for 2022/23 will be published in spring 2022, and we are still awaiting final confirmation of the arrangements. However, On 28 February 2022, DfE published a Schools Supplementary Grant calculator tool, which enable mainstream schools to estimate the grant allocation they are likely to receive in 2022/23. The calculator is available [here](#)

The Schools Forum have also agreed the allocation methodology for the supplementary grant funding for the High Needs Bloch, which is determined locally.

This methodology distribution methodology for 2022/23 is split into 2 parts:

- *Health and Social Care Levy (Increased NI contribution in 2022/23 for social care)*
For special schools and AP only
To be calculated on 80% of total budget per school x 1.25% based on 2022/23 School Budget data,
- *Wider costs pressures*
To be paid across all sectors and calculated on basis of WPNs in 2022/23 School Budget data., estimated at circa £600 per WPN

At the March meeting, Forum agreed that allocations would be adjusted for exceptional LA commissioned place changes in year at special schools and that the WPN values would be calculated from the May 2021 count, as the highest point in the year for AP providers.

Allocations will be finalised in 2022/23 and will match the payment terms for mainstream schools determined by the DfE, for example being paid as a one off payment or by instalments.

It is anticipated that the schools supplementary grant will be incorporated into the Dedicated Schools Grant from 2023/24.

Inclusion Hub Funding

The de-delegation of Primary Inclusion Hub funding for 2022/23 has been previously agreed by the Forum, following a consultation with schools.

The Forum have confirmed that the distribution methodology to allocate the funding to each district hub would be calculated on pupil numbers and a deprivation factor. Money will be allocated to the banker schools in each district in the new financial year.

What's Happening Nationally

Schools Block School Business Rates Arrangements 2022/23

Following a national consultation held in 2021 the Government had indicated that revised arrangements for school business rates would be introduced from 2022/23, where schools business rates would be paid nationally by the ESFA to billing authorities directly on behalf of 'all state funded schools'.

However, as we approached the start of the new financial year, the DfE will indicated that they will not enforce the new system on billing authorities in 2022/23, leaving the decision with each relevant authority about whether to opt into the system or opt out.

In Lancashire, the district councils are the billing authorities. DfE have recently confirmed that Lancashire billing authorities have decided not to introduce the new system in 2022/23 This means that schools should continuing with the existing payment processes where they pay their rates bill directly to their local council

This late change by the Government to the rates arrangements should have a limited impact on school budgets, as it simply continues the existing process and rates funding has been included in the Individual School Budget (ISB) statements issued for 2022/23.

Rates billing arrangements for schools funded from the High Needs Block and Early Years Block should also continue as they were in 2021/22.

Schools are reminded that the Schools Forum does operate a Rates Reimbursement Policy, which provides protection for schools receiving larger rates bills than they received funding, subject to certain thresholds and the submission of a business case. Details are available [here](#)

Further information about school business rates for 2023/24 will be provided for schools once it is received.

COVID-19 workforce fund extended to Easter to support with the costs of staff absences in schools and colleges

DfE have confirmed that the COVID-19 workforce fund has been extended to provide financial support to eligible schools and colleges, for costs incurred due to staff absences from **Monday 22 November 2021 until Friday 8 April 2022**.

The fund is available to support schools facing significant staffing and funding pressures in continuing to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education to all pupils. Further information on the COVID-19 workforce fund is available [here](#)

The claims process is retrospective and will open in the spring.

WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING?

Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS)

Please remember that the statutory requirement on all maintained schools to complete the Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) 2021/22 and to provide a copy of the completed return to the authority, is **31 March 2022**.

Many thanks to those schools that have already submitted the return.

Please could the remaining schools submit the return by the deadline. The completed return can be uploaded via the schools portal home page under Forms > Finance > Schools Financial Value Standard.

School Teaching and Support Staff Supply Reimbursement Scheme

Final confirmation of the service offer chosen by each school, if any, for 2022/23 was published on the schools portal on 7 March 2022.

If schools have any last minute queries or changes to cover for 2021/22, please contact schoolsforum@lancashire.gov.uk before the end of March 2022.

Teacher Training (QTS) using the Apprenticeship Levy- last call for applications!

LCC will be starting the programme for new applicants to beginning on 1 July 2022 with our new delivery partner for 2022, Ripley St Thomas SCITT.

Training will take place in central Preston - making it accessible for everyone.
The levy covers the full cost of the training.

This is open to any existing staff in our levy paying schools as well as those you are planning to recruit as unqualified teachers this year who are looking to gain their QTS, (we can also help with this process). Please note candidates will be required to hold a full undergraduate degree as well as maths, English and science GCSE or equivalent. For those who don't have maths English or science we will advise on the next steps.

Please note applicants must be employed in a FT position and paid on the UTPS for the duration of the apprenticeship. **Places for the teacher training apprenticeship will be limited due to the high popularity with this programme, please contact me ASAP to register your interest for the course.**

Closing date March 31st.

Please contact james.beardwood@lancashire.gov.uk - 01772 531143

FORUM MEMBERSHIP

Two primary school governor representatives, Karen Stephens and Chris Bagguley, have recently resigned from the Forum with the thanks of their colleagues.

Replacement members for these vacancies will be appointed next term, along with any other vacancies that arise as part of the Forum's annual membership review.



QUESTIONS?

Remember, if you have any questions about the Schools Forum, please contact Paul Bonser, Forum Clerk, 01772 531815, or email schoolsforum@lancashire.gov.uk