

**LANCASHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM**  
**Date of Meeting: 9 November 2022**

**Item No: 5**

**Title of Item: School Improvement Function Postponed De-delegation**

**Appendices A refer and Appendix B to follow**  
**Executive Summary**

This report further supplementary paper on School Improvement Function de-delegation for 2023/24.

**Recommendations**

**The Lancashire Schools Forum is asked to:**

- a) **Note the report.**
- b) **Vote on School Improvement Function de-delegation for 2023/24.**

## **Background**

Local authorities have been provided with the school improvement monitoring grant in recent years to assist in implementing core school improvement activities in their areas. In 2023-24, this grant will come to an end. Local authorities are permitted to de-delegate this service and it was taken to the last meeting held on 18 October 2022.

The School Forum has agreed to postpone the vote on School Improvement Function 2023/24 de-delegation until further information is provided. A supplementary paper can be viewed in Appendix A.

This meeting was arranged to make a formal vote on this de-delegation. The supplementary paper will be shortly published on the portal with a questionnaire. The deadline for this questionnaire is 8 November 2022.

The responses will be analysed and circulated to members on 9 November 2022 before the meeting is held. A copy of the responses will be later included in this paper as Appendix B.

### **De- delegation supplemental information request**

In light of the questions and concerns raised by colleagues at the Schools Forum meeting on 18 October, a review has been undertaken to reduce the financial pressure on schools. This proposal is a reduction of 42% on the original de-delegation funding request and ensures an appropriate and proportionate level of de – delegated funding is available to the LA to provide suitable school improvement functions over 2023-24.

The Local Authority has a duty to drive school improvement so that every school is a 'good' school. In this way, the Local Authority is referred to as the 'champion of the learner'. The Local Authority also has a statutory duty to intervene where maintained schools are not performing, this means providing support to schools that are judged by Ofsted to be in 'special measures' or have serious weaknesses.

### **Funding**

The school Improvement Monitoring Grant has been provided in recent years to local authorities to assist them in fulfilling core school improvement activities for the maintained schools in their area. This grant will cease in 2023-24. From 2022-23, local authorities will be permitted to de-delegate from maintained schools' budget shares to fund this core school improvement activity.

These duties include:

- Understand the performance of maintained schools in their area, using data as a starting point to identify any maintained school that is underperforming, while working with them to explore ways to support progress
- Work closely with the relevant RD, diocese and other local partners to ensure maintained schools receive the support they need to improve
- Where underperformance has been recognised in a maintained school, proactively work with the relevant RD, combining local and regional expertise to ensure the right approach, including sending warning notices, and using intervention powers where this will improve leadership and standards
- Encourage Good and Outstanding maintained schools to take responsibility for their own improvement; support other maintained schools; and enable other maintained schools to access the support they need to improve.

**Examples of areas of statutory support provided by the School Advisory Team includes:**

- Statutory Data collection EYFS, Phonics, KS1
- Support for Schools during Statutory Assessment Phases from Assessment Support Team
- Moderation of KS1 and KS2 Assessments for 25% + of schools
- Free online briefings for HTs/SLTs
- Support and challenge for schools in an Ofsted category
- Support and challenge for schools judged Requires Improvement
- Primary – undertaking statutory assessment monitoring and moderation
- Primary and nursery – discussion with schools about CLA pupils

The Monitoring and Intervention Team (MIT) is a group of advisers working to provide advice and support to schools experiencing educational difficulties. It does this by working in partnership with schools to identify specific causes of underperformance and in finding and providing targeted solutions.

The actual activities in which the MIT Adviser and the school will be involved vary according to the school’s situation but will focus on activities to build the school’s capacity to monitor and evaluate its own effectiveness and make improvements. Bespoke training and development work agreed with the school will be coordinated by the MIT Adviser. Evaluation of progress will focus on the impact on pupil performance. The MIT Adviser will work with the school to produce a programme of support which is confirmed in a contract of special support. This programme may be targeted at issues such as:

- improving the quality of data management and tracking
- assessment for learning
- improving teaching, underperformance or poor standards of achievement
- emergency recovery programmes prior to inspection
- access to examples of good practice.

The overall cost of the School Advisory Team that support the above Statutory Functions is £1.160million.

Therefore, the revised proposed cost of this de-delegation in 2023/24 is provided in the table below (based on 2022/23 pupil numbers):

	<b>Primary</b>	<b>Secondary</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Rate Per Pupil</b>	<b>8.00</b>	<b>12.00</b>
<b>Total De-delegation</b>	<b>725,000</b>	<b>435,000</b>

## Traded Activity - Schools Service Guarantee

To further support school improvement, charges are made to schools to offset non-statutory elements. For example, schools may decide to purchase the School Service Guarantee (SSG), or Service Level Agreement (SLA) which contain a 'package' of support see example below:

- Named adviser – access and close working relationship to other LA services including HR, Inclusion, Safeguarding and finance, local knowledge, bespoke support and challenge for schools.
- Three adviser days
- Support via email and telephone
- Two days contingency support for emergency situations
- Assistance in securing senior leader
- Updates and key messages from LA and termly newsletters
- Access to LSIP
- Support for schools to meet statutory requirements around Early Career Teacher induction.
- One hour one-to-one virtual consultancies for curriculum leaders in English, mathematics and science with subject specialist consultants.
- Head of Departments termly twilight virtual drop-in Question and Answer sessions in the core subjects of English, mathematics and science.
- Termly teaching and learning virtual twilight briefing for middle leaders to provide updates on national developments in teaching and learning.
- An annual online headteacher briefing on 'Promoting Equality and Diversity in School.
- Pastoral support for school leaders and staff in dealing with the challenges and ongoing impact of the Covid 19 pandemic.
- Brokering of additional support from the expertise within both the School Improvement Service and the wider Local Authority teams, for example, finance, HR, health and safety, legal, media, Inclusion etc (Subject to individual service SLA's).
- Swift access to Monitoring and Intervention Team support in response to an identified vulnerability.
- Brokering of support from local and national systems as appropriate, including professional associations, Teaching School Hubs and the Education Endowment Fund.
- Co-ordinated and partnership working with diocesan colleagues (Where appropriate)

The charge to schools for the SSG will continue but or does not represent the **full cost** of services provided, as these are offset by previous School Improvement Monitoring Grant, which has now ceased. Over the next few weeks, a service offer will be sent out to Academies and MNS.

## **Traded Activity – Additional Support**

The following traded activity will continue to be available to schools, however, should de-delegation of funding not be agreed by School's Forum, the Service will need to reconsider interventions available to schools identified in 'special measures' or having 'serious weaknesses' whilst reviewing charges to schools purchasing these traded services.

- Early Years - First Aid/Safeguarding/Food Safety with maintained providers, , Early Years Courses, LQA Step into Quality, Audit tool, Publications
- MIT & Teaching & Learning Activity – Courses
- LSES Traded Activity – Courses, Mindflick,
- Data Products – Value Added Analysis, Pivats, Pupil & Parent Questionnaires, Pupil Tracker
- SACRE - RE Syllabus subscription, Courses
- Secondary Consultants – Courses/Briefings/Consultancies
- EMA GRT – EAL Tutor Support, Courses, 1:1, 1:2, 1:3 sessions, Lancashire Equality Mark,
- NQT – Courses/Assessments/Induction
- Governor Services – Governor Training, SLA's, clerking of meetings
- Learning Excellence – Courses/Publications/Resources, PE App