

# eNewsletter

• Issue 8 • September 2024 •

# Lancashire

Schools  
Forum



## Schools Forum September - September 2024

*This is the first newsletter of the 2024/25 academic year and the Schools Forum hopes that all colleagues had an enjoyable summer. This is Issue 8 of the Lancashire Schools Forum eNewsletter' a Pre-Forum Edition, which deals with matters to be considered at the early autumn term 2024 cycle of meetings.*

### School Funding Arrangements 2025/26

Across government, budgets for 2025-26 are yet to be finalised due to the change in government, this includes the 2025-26 Schools' Budget. Therefore, the ESFA has not been able to publish the schools and high needs operational guides in July as per normal practice.

The ESFA have stated that the annual funding cycle will differ from previous years. New timelines will be confirmed following decisions on the core schools budget settlement for 2025-26.

Schools should be aware that's this may impact the local authorities funding timescales.

Updates will be provided once the schools and high needs operational guidance is published by the ESFA.

### De-delegations Consultation 2025/26

Due to the delayed ESFA funding announcements, the Schools Funding Arrangements and De-delegation Consultation is postponed. The proposed service de-delegations are as follows:

- Staff costs – Public Duties/Suspensions
- Heritage Learning Service (Museum Service) - Primary Schools Only
  - Schools Requiring additional Support
- Primary Inclusion Hubs - Primary Schools Only
  - Children's Champions

There are no changes to the service offers since 2024/25. The consultation will be issued to all maintained Primary and Secondary Schools once the ESFA finalised the Schools Budget.



## Clawback at March 2025

In July 2024, the Lancashire Schools Forum voted to Implement Clawback to excess balances at March 2024.

The Clawback Policy can be found on the [Schools Forum Website](#).

## Local News

Starting in the autumn, the Schools Financial Service will be offering a series of short webinars, briefing on a wide variety of topics.

The outline for the autumn term is shown below.

- Thursday 31st October, 10:00-10:30 - Overview of Schools Funding
- Tuesday 26th November, 10:00-10:30 - Managing Balances

Please use this link to book a place [Schools Finance Webinar Series - Autumn Term 2024 \(lancashire.gov.uk\)](#)

## National News

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) is set to close, bringing the current functions into the Department for Education, the government has announced in September 2024.

Since 2017, the ESFA has administered funding to deliver education and skills, from early years through to adulthood. Under the new structure, this work will continue, but will be delivered from within the department, giving education settings a single point of contact for financial management and support.

## Forum Membership September 2024

The latest membership list can be found [here](#).

## School Forum Meetings

The meeting schedule is published on the Schools Forum website and can be found [here](#).

If you wish to attend as an observer, please contact the Schools Forum Officer by email [schoolsforum@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:schoolsforum@lancashire.gov.uk).

### Questions?

Remember, if you have any questions about the Schools Forum, please contact Millie Parkinson, Forum Officer, 01772 534844, or email [schoolsforum@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:schoolsforum@lancashire.gov.uk)

