

Schools in Financial Difficulty Fund (SIFD) – A De-delegated service.

The Schools in Financial Difficulty Fund is to assist maintained primary schools who find themselves in unforeseen financial difficulty. Schools are required to submit details of their budget, pupil numbers and class structures to the Strategic Director, CYPS once a financial difficulty is anticipated. On consideration of the request, funds may be allocated and added to the budget of the relevant school for that year.

The budget for the Schools in Financial Difficulty Fund (SIFD) is initially allocated to the maintained primary schools through the formula but is then de-delegated with Schools Forum approval.

The decision made to de-delegate in 2015-16 related to that year only, so a new decision will be required for the fund to be de-delegated in 2016-17. Schools forum members for primary maintained schools must decide whether the service should be provided centrally and the decision will apply to all maintained schools in the phase.

Funding for this service will then be removed from the formula before school budgets are issued.

Table 1 below shows the methodology, budget and balances agreed from the financial year 2013-14 onwards:

Table 1

Financial Year	Number of Maintained Primaries	Number of Pupils	Unit Value	Initial Budget	Balance as at 31st March
2013-14	97 (98)	21,334	£4.69	£100,000	-£22.00
2014-15	83 (96)	19,312	£5.18	£100,000	£45,609
2015-16	68 (94)	16,377	£4.58	£75,000	NIL

Following adjustments for academy conversions the 2015-16 revised SIFD budget is £67,609. This plus the surplus balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 of £45,609 gives a total available 2015-16 budget of £113,218.

To date £30,000 has been allocated to 5 schools. The schools' budgets will continue to be monitored and it is likely that the remaining balance of £83,218 will be allocated in full before the year end.

As mentioned above a new decision is required for the fund to be de-delegated in 2016-17. For information an estimate of 2016-17 methodology and budget is shown in table 2:

Table 2

Financial Year	Number of Maintained Primaries	Number of Pupils	Unit Value	Initial Budget
2016-17	60 (94)	14,596	£5.14	£75,000

Vera Njegic, Principal Finance Officer.