

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning and Culture
2.	Date:	27th March 2012
3.	Title:	Annual Determination- The Local Authority (Post-Compulsory Education Awards) Regulations 2000
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People’s Services

5. Summary

Under the Local Authority (Post-Compulsory Education Awards) Regulations 2000, LAs are required to make an annual determination on exercising powers to make financial awards to new Higher Education (HE) and Further Education (FE) students.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Authority determines not to take up the power in any circumstances and not make provision for considering applications for awards to new FE and HE students, and to 16-19 year olds who are still attending school.

7. Proposals and Details

The Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998 removed the power for LAs to make discretionary awards to FE (and HE) students under the 1962 Education Act. Prior to this, the LA had run a scheme of financial support to FE, sixth form and some HE students who would otherwise have not been eligible for funding. Section 129 of The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 conferred a revised power on LEAs, should they wish to use it, to make awards to new FE (and HE) students, and to 16-19 year olds who are still attending school

In parallel with the removal of the power to make discretionary awards, funding was withdrawn from the then Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) from 1999-2000. From that date, the LA determined not to make any new awards. New funding was available to students from a new Standards Fund (now YPLA allocated grant) in the form of Learner Support Funds. For academic year 2011/12 onwards discretionary Learner Support has been replaced by the 16-19 Bursary Fund.

Authorities are however still required to make an annual determination for each financial year in regard to the revised power conferred in 1998. They have 3 main choices under the regulations:

- i) to determine not to take up the power in any circumstances and not make any provision for considering applications;
- ii) to decide to exercise the power only in respect of certain groups or categories of student; or
- iii) to decide to exercise the power generally and consider applications from all students - still in accordance with its policies on eligibility.

The Authority has to date determined each year not to make any provision.

8. Finance

There is no allocation under the Formula Grant to for financial awards to HE and FE students.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

None.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

None.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

DfEE letter 3rd February 1999 'The Local Education Authority (Post Compulsory Education awards) Regulation 1999'.

Statutory Instrument 2000 No 2057 -The Local Education Authority (Post-Compulsory Education Awards) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2000.

YPLA letter 15th June 2011 '16-19 Bursary Fund Allocation 2011/12'

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