

**1. SEND update: -**

Donald Rae presented a range of information on SEND issues and outcomes in Rotherham. The High Needs Working Party has had its first meeting. Continuing updates will be provided to the Rotherham Schools' Forum.

Wider representation on the High Needs Working Party is welcome, particularly within the Secondary phase. Attendance is not limited to Headteacher or SLT level; SENCos would be welcome and could make an important contribution.

**2. Educated Other Than At School: -**

Lorraine Lichfield presented a new model for EOTAS that she feels will make significant differences towards the education and tracking of children who are educated other than at school.

Rotherham Schools' Forum will need to make a decision in January as to whether funding arrangements remain as they are at present or whether money is delegated to schools and a Service Level Agreement is established.

**3. Learners First: -**

All Schools should have received notification of: -

- A) Money being devolved back to schools that had originally been earmarked centrally within the Local Authority;
- B) A letter from Learners First outlining subscription charges.

The Rotherham Schools' Forum confirmed that the money would be delegated to Schools in 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 so that Schools wishing to take the two-year option could do so with an assurance about the funding.

Larger schools dealing with a larger amount of money would be required to obtain two quotations for the work. The Local Authority was looking into exempting this Standing Order(s) as Learners First is a unique model and it would not be possible to obtain other like-for-like quotations.

**4. Formula Consultation with Schools: -**

The Rotherham Schools' Forum would need to take a number of decisions at the meeting scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2015, on the potential Mobility Factor, Lump-Sum Factor for Schools that had amalgamated and were in their second year.

In addition, decisions would be taken on all de-delegated and centrally retained budgets: -

Should sums continue to be de-delegated from maintained school budgets in 2015-16?

De-delegated budgets	% of schools in agreement
Schools in Financial Difficulty	93%
Behaviour support (EOTAS)	81%

FSM eligibility	94%
Trade union	94%

**Table 3** – Can be centrally retained before allocating formula but **no new commitments or increases in expenditure** from 2014-15.

Service	2014-15
Winterhill & Rawmarsh CLC's	£162,612
School Effectiveness	£1,254,040
Learners First	£765,000
Children in Public Care	£152,000
Voice and Influence	£3,143
Education Welfare	£31,000
Outdoor Education Co-ordinator	£24,649
Training for Children with Medical Needs	£45,500
Moving and Handling Account	£45,500
Sexual Exploitation Team	£45,208
Operational Safeguarding Unit	£66,000
Termination of employment costs	£157,000
SEN Transport	£101,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,852,652</b>

**Table 4** – Can be centrally retained before allocating formula and **can be increased**.

Service	2014-15
Pupil Growth Fund	£400,000
Copyright Licensing Agency, Education Recording Agency & Music Publishers Association	£144,412
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£544,412</b>

**Table 5** – Can be centrally retained before allocating formula but **no increases in expenditure** from 2014-15.

<b>Service</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
Servicing of Schools Forum	£3,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£3,000</b>

**Voting and decision making at Rotherham Schools' Forum meetings: -**

Can I remind schools that the Learning Community Representative is voting on behalf of the Learning Community. This means that they would be voting on behalf of primary, secondary, maintained and academies in their Learning Community.

For example: - Paul Blackwell, Dinnington Learning Community Representative – as a Secondary Headteacher – would vote on behalf of the Learning Community on a primary only decision – hence the need for Learning Communities to regularly discuss Rotherham Schools' Forum issues.

**5. Centrally held funds: -**

Dorothy Smith gave a commitment to the Rotherham Schools' Forum to look at drawing up Service Level Agreements for centrally and de-delegated funds. Timescales are to be confirmed, with Dorothy preferring April 2016, and a number of Forum Members expressing an earlier preference, April or September, 2015.

**6. City Learning Centres: -**

Discussion was held on City Learning Centres and potential threats going forward relating to the CLCs' surpluses being used to off-set the Local Authority's budget deficit. The LA can legally do this.

**7. Formula for new schools: -**

Discussion was held on an appropriate funding formula for brand new schools that opened.