

Report to the Schools Forum 19 May 2022

School Improvement Update

1 Background and Context

- 1.1 On 11 January 2022, the DfE confirmed that they were halving the value of the School Improvement Monitoring and Brokerage Grant in 2022/23 and removing it entirely in 2023/24.
- 1.2 In order to compensate for the loss of funding and enable the local authority (LA) to continue to deliver the statutory duties, maintained members of the Schools Forum agreed at the meeting held on 19 January to de-delegate £90,826 for 2022/23. It was also agreed that the local authority would work with schools over the course of 2022/23 to review policies and procedures (see paragraph 3.9 of the 19 January 2022 Forum minutes).

2 Update on action taken

- 2.1 In April 2022, we launched a consultation with maintained school leaders to gather feedback about how this statutory function might be delivered in the future. 13 schools completed the survey.
- 2.2 All schools who fed back reported that they were familiar with the new LA Securing School Improvement Protocol, with all but one reporting they have a good understanding of the rationale for the classification of their school. All respondents reported concerns that the de-delegation of funding for the LA School Improvement statutory role had put additional pressure on their already stretched budgets.
- 2.3 The LA statutory duties currently remain, despite the removal of DFE funding and are summarised below:
- monitor performance of maintained schools including governance,
 - broker School Improvement provision,
 - intervene in maintained schools as appropriate.
- 2.4 These statutory duties are set out in Part 4 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 with additional School Improvement expectations set out in the Schools Causing Concern (SCC) guidance.
- 2.5 Schools were asked to suggest alternative approaches the LA might develop to the delivery of this statutory role. Although a number of schools recognised the difficulties of delegating a statutory function, the answers to this particular question raised an interesting area to explore, namely how the LA might work more closely with School Improvement providers commissioned by schools (e.g. the Severn Training School Alliance) in order to support this function
- 2.6 In order to work in partnership with our maintained schools and progress the conversation about how the LA role can be fulfilled in the future we will set up a Working Party to discuss next steps.

2.7 Any school that would like to be part of this group should contact, Liz Smith on the following email address: liz.smith@telford.gov.uk.

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Tim Davis
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