

Report to the Schools Forum 13 January 2017

De-delegation for Free School Meals Eligibility checks (maintained secondary schools only 2017/18)

1 Introduction

1.1 De-delegation decisions do not apply to academies, special schools or PRUs. Voting is as follows:

- maintained primary school representatives, for maintained primary de-delegations;
- maintained secondary school representatives, for maintained secondary de-delegations.

1.2 At the November 2016 Schools Forum meeting de-delegation for free school meal eligibility checks was agreed by representatives of maintained primary schools. Secondary representatives asked to defer their vote until they had discussed with their colleagues in other maintained secondary schools.

2 Proposed de-delegation for 2017/18

2.1 The following de-delegation is proposed for maintained secondary schools for 2017/18.

Service	Basis of de-delegation	Estimated Total
Free school meals eligibility	£8.50 for each pupil eligible for free school meals, on October 2016 census	£4,000

2.2 T&W's benefits team process the applications for Free School Meals (FSM). Claimants who receive some tax credits, certain benefits or who are asylum seekers complete an application for free school meals for their children and their entitlement is assessed by the benefits team using the government's Eligibility Checking Service. Entitlement is reassessed at regular intervals.

2.3 In order to avoid schools having to make individual arrangements for this process to be completed, **it is proposed that maintained secondary schools de-delegate a sum of £8.50 per pupil eligible for free school meals at the October 2016 census.** This would result in around £4,000 being de-delegated from the five maintained secondary schools.

2.4 Any institutions that are not part of de-delegation or agreed contribution arrangements will be charged for free school meal assessments.

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