



Notice of meeting of

Executive Members for Childrens Services and Advisory Panel

To: Councillor Carol Runciman, Childrens Services
(Executive Member)
Councillor Keith Aspden, Youth & Social Inclusion
(Executive Member)
Councillor James Alexander (Chair)
Councillor Jenny Brooks (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Paul Firth
Councillor Julie Gunnell
Councillor David Merrett
Councillor Andy D'Agorne

Co-opted Statutory Members:

Dr David Sellick
Mr John Bailey

Co-opted Non-Statutory Members:

Ms Fiona Barclay
Mrs Ann Burn
Mrs Jona Ellis
Ms Barbara Reagan
Mr Mike Thomas
Mr Mike Galloway

Date: Monday, 21 January 2008

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: Guildhall

AGENDA

Notice to Members - Calling In:

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in any item on this agenda, notice must be given to Democracy Support Group by:

10:00 am on Friday 18 January 2008, if an item is called in *before* a decision is taken, *or*

4:00 pm on Wednesday 23 January 2008, if an item is called in *after* a decision has been taken.

Items called in will be considered by the Scrutiny Management Committee.

1. Declarations of Interest (Pages 3 - 4)

At this point Members are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business on this agenda.

2. Minutes (Pages 5 - 26)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2007.

3. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered their wish to speak regarding an item on the agenda or an issue within the Panel's remit can do so. Anyone who wishes to register or requires further information is requested to contact the Democracy Officer on the contact details listed at the foot of this agenda. The deadline for registering is 5pm the working day before the meeting.

4. Exclusion of Press and Public

To consider excluding the public and press from the meeting during consideration of Annex B to agenda item 8 on the grounds that it is likely to reveal the identity of an individual. It also contains information relating to labour relations. This information is classed

as exempt under Paragraphs 2 and 4 of Schedule 12A to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972.

5. Home to School Travel and Transport Policy (Pages 27 - 64)

This report seeks approval for a revised home to school transport policy that will come into operation from 1 September 2008. The policy reflects the new statutory responsibilities placed on Local Authorities as a result of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

6. Purchasing from Voluntary Sector of Play Services (Pages 65 - 70)

This paper sets out the Government's recent announcements from the Children, School and Families Secretary on the national play agenda and requests approval for the use of Better Play Grants for the purchase of some specific play services through service level agreements.

7. Local Authority School Governor Appointments (Pages 71 - 76)

This report provides information about the current position with regard to vacancies for LA seats on governing bodies, lists current nominations for those vacancies, as detailed in Annex 1, and requests the appointment, or re-appointment, of the listed nominees.

8. Establishing an Integrated Youth Service for York (Pages 77 - 94)

This report summarises the progress towards establishing an integrated service for young people in York, since the decision in principle at the Executive meeting on 27 February 2007 to adopt a directly-managed model when responsibility for the Connexions service transfers to Local Authorities in April 2008.

9. Revenue Budgets 2008/9 (Pages 95 - 138)

This report presents the 2008/09 budget proposals for Children's Services. It includes:

- The revenue budget for 2007/08 (Annex 1) to show the original budgets.

- The base budget for 2008/09 including the 2007/08 budget rolled forward and adjusted.
- The provisional allocation of pay and price increases for the portfolio.
- Budget service pressure costs and savings proposals for the portfolio area (Annexes 2 and 3).
- Fees and Charges proposals (Annex 4).
- Other revenue budget options for consultation (Annex 5).
- The existing approved capital programme (Annex 6).
- Proposals for new capital schemes (Annex 7).
- Residential Homes, Foster Carers, Sharing Care, Adoption and Residence Order Weekly Allowances (Annex 8).

10. Capital Budget 2008/9

This report has been amalgamated with the Revenue Budget 2008/09 report above.

11. Change to the School Funding Formula (Pages 139 - 202)

This report recommends changes to some factors within the Local Management of Schools (LMS) Funding Formula prior to April 2008. The report sets out the responses received from schools during the recent consultation exercise and the resulting recommendations of the Schools Forum

12. The Annual Report of the City of York Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) (Pages 203 - 210)

The report attached as Annex 1 provides members and the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority with details of the work of the City of York Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) from January to December 2007.

13. Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972

Democracy Officer:

Name: Tracy Wallis

Contact Details:

- Telephone – (01904) 552062
- E-mail – tracy.wallis@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

Contact details are set out above.

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If you would, you will need to:

- register by contacting the Democracy Officer (whose name and contact details can be found on the agenda for the meeting) **no later than 5.00 pm** on the last working day before the meeting;
- ensure that what you want to say speak relates to an item of business on the agenda or an issue which the committee has power to consider (speak to the Democracy Officer for advice on this);
- find out about the rules for public speaking from the Democracy Officer.

A leaflet on public participation is available on the Council's website or from Democratic Services by telephoning York (01904) 551088

Further information about what's being discussed at this meeting

All the reports which Members will be considering are available for viewing online on the Council's website. Alternatively, copies of individual reports or the full agenda are available from Democratic Services. Contact the Democracy Officer whose name and contact details are given on the agenda for the meeting. **Please note a small charge may be made for full copies of the agenda requested to cover administration costs.**

Access Arrangements

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Holding the Executive to Account

The majority of councillors are not appointed to the Executive (38 out of 47). Any 3 non-Executive councillors can 'call-in' an item of business from a published Executive (or Executive Member Advisory Panel (EMAP)) agenda. The Executive will still discuss the 'called in' business on the published date and will set out its views for consideration by a specially convened Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC). That SMC meeting will then make its recommendations to the next scheduled Executive meeting in the following week, where a final decision on the 'called-in' business will be made.

Scrutiny Committees

The purpose of all scrutiny and ad-hoc scrutiny committees appointed by the Council is to:

- Monitor the performance and effectiveness of services;
- Review existing policies and assist in the development of new ones, as necessary; and
- Monitor best value continuous service improvement plans

Who Gets Agenda and Reports for our Meetings?

- Councillors get copies of all agenda and reports for the committees to which they are appointed by the Council;
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**MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION &
CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND ADVISORY PANEL**

Agenda item I: Declarations of interest.

The following Members and Co-optees declared a general personal interest in the items on the agenda:

Councillor Runciman – Governor of Joseph Rowntree School, Governor at New Earswick Primary School, Governor of York College and Trustee of the Theatre Royal.

Councillor Aspden – Member of the National Union of Teachers (NUT).
Teacher at Norton College, Malton, North Yorkshire.

Councillor D'Agorne – Governor of Fishergate School, Employee of York College Student Services (Information Advice & Guidance for Young People).
Has a daughter at All Saints School.

Councillor Firth – Governor of Wigginton Primary School and wife is a member of the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT)

Councillor Gunnell – has a son at York College

Councillor Merrett – has a child at St Paul's Primary School, a child who uses the school's music service and is a committee member of the York Chinese Cultural Association.

Councillor Brooks – is a member of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers and she is a lecturer at City College Manchester

Councillor Alexander – is an employee at York St John's University.

Co-opted statutory members

Dr D Sellick – Governor of Derwent Infant & Junior School

Mr J Bailey – Governor of Huntington Secondary School and LEA Governor of Huntington Primary School

Co-opted non-statutory members

Ms F Barclay – Teacher at All Saints School and ATL Branch Secretary for City of York.

Mrs J Ellis – Governor of Burton Green Primary School and Governor of Canon Lee School.

Mrs A Burn – Headteacher and Governor of Yearsley Grove Primary School.
Secretary of the York branch of the NAHT

Ms B Reagan is a teacher at Joseph Rowntree School. SENCO, Secretary of the York Association of the National Union of Teachers.

Mr M Thomas is the secretary of the York Association of National Association of Schoolmasters and Women Teachers (NASUWT).

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

MEETING	EXECUTIVE MEMBERS FOR CHILDRENS SERVICES AND ADVISORY PANEL
DATE	6 DECEMBER 2007
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS RUNCIMAN (EXECUTIVE MEMBER), ASPDEN (EXECUTIVE MEMBER), ALEXANDER (CHAIR), BROOKS (VICE-CHAIR), FIRTH, GUNNELL, MERRETT, MS F BARCLAY (CO-OPTED NON-STATUTORY MEMBER), MRS J ELLIS (CO-OPTED NON-STATUTORY MEMBER), MR M GALLOWAY (CO-OPTED NON-STATUTORY MEMBER), DR D SELICK (CO-OPTED STATUTORY MEMBER) MR J BAILEY (CO-OPTED STATUTORY MEMBER)
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLOR D'AGORNE, MRS A BURN, MS B REAGAN AND MR M THOMAS

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda. The following general personal non-prejudicial interests were declared.

Councillor Runciman	Governor of Joseph Rowntree School Governor of New Earswick Primary School Trustee of the Theatre Royal Governor of York College
Councillor Aspden	Member of National Union of Teachers (NUT) Teacher at Norton College, Malton, North Yorkshire
Councillor Firth	Governor of Wigginton Primary School Wife is Member of National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT)
Councillor Gunnell	Son at York College
Councillor Merrett	Child at St Paul's Primary School Committee Member of York Chinese Cultural Association Child uses School's Music Service

Councillor Brooks	Member of Association of Teachers and Lecturers Lecturer employed by City College, Manchester
Councillor Alexander	Is an employee at York St John's University
Mr J Bailey	Governor of Huntington Secondary School LEA Governor of Huntington Primary School
Dr D Sellick	Governor of Derwent Infant & Junior School
Ms F Barclay	Teacher at All Saints School ATL Branch Secretary for City of York
Mrs J Ellis	Governor of Burton Green Primary School Governor of Canon Lee School

Mr M Galloway declared a personal prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 4 (Consultation on proposal for additional post-16 provision) as he was principal of York College.

37. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the last meeting held on 15th October 2007 be approved and signed as a correct record.

38. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was reported that there had been one registration to speak under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

The Head Teacher at Archbishop Holgate's School spoke on Agenda Item 4 (Consultation on proposal for additional post-16 provision). He listed the following reasons for supporting the provision of post-16 education at the school.

- It would offer a locally based provision
- It would enhance learner choice
- It would offer an important catalyst for partnership work
- It would help form embedded partnerships
- The focus would be on applied learning
- It would be a distinctive school based post-16 provision
- It would not create a precedent
- It would meet the hopes and aspirations of the pupils
- It would meet the hopes and aspirations of the community

39. CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL FOR ADDITIONAL POST-16 PROVISION

Members considered a report that summarised Archbishop Holgate's School's plan to develop post-16 provision and provided the context within

which the Executive Member could formally respond to the school's proposals.

An overview of the school's revised proposals is set out in the list below:

- A post-16 Learning Centre with 160 places which develops and extends existing post-16 provision in the City by offering:
 - Locality based provision, addressing issues of travel to learn, retention and achievement in East York identified in the Strategic Area Review.
 - A focus on applied learning, addressing a shortage of school-based provision in applied learning at entry level, Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3.
 - Employment skills and imperatives for future economic development, particularly the Science City agenda.
 - A collaborative approach, with partnership working at its heart.
 - An innovative approach based on lines of learning, business partnerships and new qualifications including the Diploma, in specialist purpose-built facilities.
 - Increased enrichment and credibility through combining specialised Diplomas with an international Diploma.
 - Provision which responds to the aspirations of parents, which broadens learner choice and which thereby meets the guidelines of the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DSCF).
 - High quality provision in a school graded Outstanding, with high added value, a strong track record of development and success, and acknowledged as having excellent capacity to continue to improve.

The Assistant Director of School Improvement and Staff Development reported that the proposals met a clearly identified need and there was, nationally, a strategic need to develop provision of education for those in the 14-19 age bracket. She felt it was important to stress that there were still ongoing discussions regarding some issues, including those linked with responsibility for funding.

Some Members felt that it would have been better if the strategic policy regarding post-16 education provision had been implemented before this proposal had come about.

Discussions were had regarding whether provision at Archbishop Holgate's School would undermine any other provision in the City and it was noted

that there would be no duplication across the City. Learners would be given access to a wide range of courses and schools would not be offering more subjects than necessary. There would be no overprovision of courses.

Concerns were raised about whether the needs of the City were being met, whether it would be possible to attain the numbers of pupils required, the effect on other local schools in the area and the position the Local Authority would be in in the future with regards to revenue.

Officers responded that there were some difficulties within the City regarding the uptake of post –16 education and some of these could be eased if the correct kind of provision was available. The recent Ofsted report stated that the school had outstanding pastoral care and was very good with vulnerable learners.

Members were pleased to know that discussions were still ongoing regarding funding as they had concerns appertaining to this.

o n

Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member be advised to:

- Approve the school's proposals (subject to clarifications as stated in paragraphs 46-48 and 64 of the report).¹

Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the Advisory Panel be accepted and endorsed.

REASON:

- This recognises the strength of the school and its ambition to take a lead as a high performing specialist school with a vocational specialism.
- The school meets all the criteria as described in paragraph 33 of the report.
- It provides a framework for development and opportunity in line with City of York Lifelong Learning Partnership (CYLLP) 14-19 strategy. This strategy and partnership recognises the strengths of existing 16-19 providers and seeks to ensure that Archbishop Holgate's School (AHS) plans help the city to improve provision for those young people who currently tend to opt out of education at the age of 16 and to help and to help meet the needs of learners across the City by offering extended choice and diversity.
- It is an opportunity to develop existing partnership work and provide additional facilities for learners.

- It allows for further debate about the detail of this proposal. We propose that the school is asked to amend its proposal (appendix 6 to the report) to clarify how its proposals fit within the new funding regime. In particular, Members need to be assured about:
 - Which programmes are core, definitely needed and therefore certain to be funded
 - Which programmes the school wishes to offer and will seek access funding through a commissioning process
 - The school's contingency plans to manage the costs of running the new building: in the short term as curriculum provision is gradually scaled up; in the long term if expected learner numbers are not secured

Action Required

1. Implement the school's proposals and obtain clarifications as stated in paragraphs 46-48 and 64 of the report)

ST

40. LOCAL AUTHORITY SCHOOL GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS

Members considered a report that informed them of the current position with regard to vacancies for Local Authority seats on governing bodies, lists current nominations for those vacancies (as detailed in Annex 1 to the report) and requests the appointment or re-appointment of the listed nominees.

Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member be advised to:

- Appoint and re-appoint the Local Authority Governors, to fill vacant seats, as proposed in Annex 1 to the report. ¹

Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the Advisory Panel be accepted and endorsed.

REASON: To ensure that Local Authority places on school governing bodies continue to be effectively filled.

Action Required

1. Implement the appointment and re-appointment of the Local Authority Governors as detailed in Annex 1 of the report.

ST

41. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN PLACEMENT STRATEGY ANNUAL REVIEW

Members considered a report that informed them that the placement strategy for looked after children was reviewed annually to ensure that there was an opportunity to reflect on progress against the aims and objectives of the strategy. It gives an update on recent inspections and reports the results.

The strategy endeavours to ensure that children and young people who are currently placed outside York are able to return to a York-based placement (where appropriate) and that the need to place children and young people outside York in the future is minimised.

Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member be advised to:

- Acknowledge the information relating to progress in the placement strategy for looked after children relating to adoption, fostering and children's homes.
- Agree the further development of the specialist fostering scheme in line with the stated principles of the strategy.¹
- Acknowledge the annual adoption report
- Note that further reports will be forthcoming in 2008 on short breaks for disabled children, adoption support and Care Matters.

Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the Advisory Panel be accepted and endorsed.

REASON: To comply with the requirements to receive an annual report, to reduce both independent fostering agency placements and achieve cost savings and to ensure knowledge on future information.

Action Required

1. Implement the further development of the specialist fostering scheme in line with the stated principles of the strategy.

ST

42. CHILDREN'S FUND - IMPLICATIONS ON COMMISSIONING OF SERVICES AND TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENT IN YORK

Members considered a report that informed them of the main issues arising from the government announcements about the Children's Fund, an approach to be developed which will enable effective commissioning for the Children's Fund and will give opportunity for developing the wider commissioning agenda in the city through Children's Trust arrangements as well as an interim approach to continue the legacy of work undertaken by the Children's Fund in York.

Members were presented with the following options:

- Option A** Development of a coherent commissioning process piloted through the Children's Fund which can be utilised for wider commissioning.
- Option B** Continuation of current governance and commissioning process for Children's Fund.
- Option C** Funds to be allocated by City of York to Early intervention work for children and young people.

Advice of the advisory Panel

That the Executive Member be advised to:

- Adopt Option A, as set out below ¹
 - Development of a coherent multi-agency commissioning process be developed for and piloted by Children's Fund which can be utilised for wider commissioning.
 - Transitional arrangements put in place for a 6 month period to ensure that the legacy of the Children's Fund can be preserved and then built upon and developed.
 - To reinforce the fact that these are transitional arrangements a slight change in name from Children's Fund to Children's Early Intervention Fund be introduced. Cost of transition arrangements would be a maximum of £177k for the 6 months with an additional funding for Nurture groups over the year of £25,000.

Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the Advisory Panel be accepted and endorsed.

REASON: This option will ensure an effective commissioning process for Children's Fund monies. It will utilise this process to develop a wider more coherent

commissioning process. It will ensure that the legacy of the Children's Fund can be built upon. It will facilitate the development of services under the new funding arrangement.

Action Required

1. Implement Option A as set out in the report

ST

43. CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE AND FINANCE MONITORING REPORT 2

Members considered a report that analysed performance by reference to the service plan, the budget and the performance indicators for all of the services funded through the Children's Services budget. In line with the council's integrated reporting arrangements this report provided Members with an opportunity to reflect on progress in the second period of this financial year against actions, performance indicators and finance projections.

Members raised several questions on the information provided in Annex 1 to the report; Officers agreed to get back to the relevant Members on their individual queries. The queries were as follows:¹

- More information and a broader description is needed regarding 'Training undertaken by key staff with regard to PHSE, and Relationships Education (SRE) to reducing teenage pregnancies' (Page 129 of the agenda)
- Following the demise of NAGTY their data which shows the involvement of students in enrichment programmes will not be available and the new provider is currently not providing this information. This will impact on the ability to report on this Performance Indicator (PI) in the future...' – is this being rectified? (Page 132 of the agenda)
- When are the indicators on vocational course results going to be made available? (Page 144 of the agenda)
- In relation to the information to ensure that victims participate in restorative processes in 25% of relevant disposals referred to in the Youth Offending Team and 85% of victims are satisfied – can Officers include information in relation to customer satisfaction. (Page 144 of the agenda)
- In relation to the Number of organisations awarded the Youth Charter – What is the Charter and what is happening in relation to this (Page 157 of the agenda)

Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member be advised to:

- Note the performance of services within the directorate funded through the Children's Services budget.

Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the Advisory Panel be accepted and endorsed.

REASON: To meet the agreed service planning reporting arrangements for the service.

Action Required

1. Respond to Members' queries in relation to Annex 1 of the report. ST

44. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING REPORT 2

Members considered a report that informed them of the likely out-turn position of the 2007/08 capital programme based on the spend profile and information to the end of October 2007. It advised Members of changes to existing schemes and reprofiling of expenditure to allow the more effective management and monitoring of the Capital Programme. It also advised Members of new schemes and sought their approval for their addition to the Capital Programme.

Members were shown a presentation regarding the Joseph Rowntree One School Pathfinder Scheme.

Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member be advised to:

- Note the capital programme forecast outturn for 2007/08 as shown in Annex A to the report.
- Approve the additions and amendments to the capital programme reported and summarised in Annex A¹
- Approve the scheme reprofiling and slippage reported and summarised in Annex A to the report.²
- Agree the revised capital programme as shown at Annex A to the report, subject to the approval of the Executive.³

Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the Advisory Panel be accepted and endorsed.

REASON: To enable the effective management and monitoring of the capital programme.

Action Required

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Implement the additions and amendments to the Capital Programme | ST |
| 2. Implement the scheme reprofiling and slippage reported and summarised in Annex A to the report. | ST |
| 3 Implement the revised capital programme as shown at Annex A to the report, subject to the approval of the Executive. | ST |

45. PREPARATION FOR JOINT AREA REVIEW

Members considered a report that briefed them on the outcome of York's Annual Performance Assessment for 2007 and also described the preparation underway for the Joint area Review process in January/February 2008.

Officers circulated a letter from Ofsted (attached) regarding the 2007 Annual Performance Assessment of Services for Children and Young People in City of York Council. The letter summarised the findings of the 2007 annual performance assessment for the Local Authority and gave gradings for the following areas:

- Overall effectiveness of children's services
- Being healthy
- Staying safe
- Enjoying & achieving
- Making appositive contribution
- Achieving economic well-being
- Capacity to improve including the management of children's services

Joint Area Reviews (JARs) are also led by Ofsted and evaluate how local services work together to contribute to the achievements, progress and well-being of children and young people growing up in the area against the five outcomes identified in Every Child Matters.

Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member be advised to:

- To note and comment on the outcome of the 2007 annual Performance Assessment of children and young people's services in York and to the note the preparations underway for the forthcoming Joint Area Review.

Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the Advisory Panel be accepted and endorsed.

REASON: To provide Members with Ofsted feedback of local services and to brief Members on the forthcoming inspection of children and young people's services.

Councillor C Runciman
Executive Member for Children's Services

Councillor K Aspden
Executive Member for Youth and Social Inclusion

Councillor J Alexander, Chair
[The meeting started at 6.05 pm and finished at 8.45 pm].

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26 November 2007

Mr Pete Dwyer
Director of Learning Culture & Children's Services
City of York Council
Mill House
North Street
York
YO1 6JD

Dear Mr Dwyer

2007 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

This letter summarises the findings of the 2007 annual performance assessment (APA) for your local authority. The judgements in the letter draw on your review of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP), and the evidence and briefings provided by Ofsted, other inspectorates and relevant bodies. We are grateful for the information you provided to support this process and for the time given by you and your colleagues during the assessment.

Overall effectiveness of children's services Grade 4

The council has sustained and further improved the quality of its services for children and young people, against a continuing background of low levels of funding. The outcomes for education and for social care are outstanding in nearly all aspects. Standards in schools are above average and contribute considerably to the economic well-being of young people. There is a clear strategy for 14–19 curriculum development and strong partnership working. The council continuously strives for improvement in how well it provides for young people, especially the most vulnerable. It has improved the outcomes for children's safety and well-being, and for many aspects of their health.

Being healthy Grade 3

Summary of strengths and areas for development

The contribution of services to improving outcomes for children and young people in this aspect is good. The local authority continues to make good progress from a solid platform in many areas in relation to child and family health. Young people surveyed in York responded more positively on many health-related aspects than others nationally.

Headlining this progress is the City's achievement in respect of the Healthy Schools Award, where two thirds of all schools have attained the award, exceeding the national target. Only six other authorities have achieved higher rates. All the council's schools are signed up to the scheme and they are optimistic of continued funding.

Very good progress is being achieved in relation to the immunisation programme for young children. The overall trend for health and dental checks for looked after children and young people is good and improving. For example the rate for immunisations is very high, well in excess of national figures and the figures for dental checks are 6-7% better than regional or national averages.

Partnership working by the council is a clear strength, illustrated by the highly effective links between the Youth Offending Service and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). Acute emergency responses to mental health issues, including substance misuse, compare very favourably with statistical neighbours and the national picture: young people are being assessed more promptly and are accessing services which more closely meet their needs. Having young people represented on the executive board of CAMHS is a very positive move. Wider programmes are developing in relation to drug misuse, such as programmes for parents who are drug users, with signs of good attendance.

The new children's centres are providing a hub point in local communities for partnership work. Teenage pregnancy rates remain higher than anticipated. While the overall rate of pregnancy for 15-17 year olds is similar to both national and statistical neighbour averages the trend is one of increase rather than the significant decreases shown by the national average and statistical neighbour figures. The local authority recognises that, in partnership with others, there is need for further work actively consulting with young people in, for example, the use of long-acting contraceptives. This consultation work has commenced.

Work has been done across all outcome areas to ensure that the integration of services for children with disabilities and their families has remained a priority. Services centred around the new children's centres are accessible to disabled children and young people, and a directory of services has been published for them.

Area for development

- Show greater impact of actions taken to try to reduce teenage pregnancy rates.

Staying safe

Grade 4

Summary of strengths and areas for development

The contribution of services to improving outcomes for children and young people in this aspect is outstanding. York has a good record in provision for staying safe and has further improved outcomes since the APA in 2006. Young people surveyed responded slightly more positively than others nationally on staying safe, and a greater proportion said that they felt very safe on public transport.

The council has established a child index (contact point), re-launched through YorOK, to address previously identified shortcomings. This incorporates a role for staff in giving customers informal advice, a new early intervention route-map for vulnerable children and new publicity material in a range of accessible formats. The benefits of this system are starting to be seen and utilised more fully by partner agencies. The council now distinguishes more clearly between enquiries and referrals, which should in future reduce the overall figure for child protection referrals and reduce re-referral rates.

Completing initial and core assessments within the required timescales were areas for improvement at the last APA, and both have since improved significantly. Whereas before only one fifth of core assessments were completed within the timescale, this is now well over four fifths. Two thirds of initial assessments are completed within seven days, compared to one half previously.

All child protection reviews were completed on time. Every child on the register was allocated a social worker and re-registration rates reduced to one in ten. This indicates good professional practice and robust decision making.

The percentage of reviews for children looked after by the council that were completed on time has risen considerably and is now in line with the national figure. Systems are in place to continue to improve this: re-emphasis to all relevant staff of the importance of timely reviews and new responsibilities to independent reviewing officers to quality assure the process.

There are very few looked after children. The number of looked after children is below the national average and, whilst the care population has increased, the number of admissions to care show a significant reduction. Placement stability is good. It is much better than it at first appears in the data, because the council is very successful in moving looked-after children and young people to adoption. The council has improved placement stability overall, despite a very small number of individual teenagers who had very demanding needs in their placements. The authority's permanency panels have looked carefully at each case with the aim of moving young people quickly to long term stability. The authority's figures show that only 7% of placements are genuinely unstable, representing very few young people.

The City of York Safeguarding Board takes a lead role in child protection and on the wider safeguarding agenda. It is pro-active and innovative, encouraging excellent partnership working, particularly in relation to domestic violence and in the investigation and monitoring of allegations against professionals. The board has been commended for its work in developing the coverage of clearances completed through the Criminal Records Bureau for staff in independent schools.

Area for development

- Continue to explore the means of improving the longer term stability of the small number of looked after young people who move placements frequently.

Enjoying and achieving

Grade 4

Summary of strengths and areas for development

The contribution of services to improving outcomes for children and young people in this aspect is outstanding. Standards in schools are above average in all key stages and have risen still further. In Key Stage 3 standards are well above national average. Provision for family learning is excellent. The programme for developing children's centres and extended schools is well ahead of regional and national comparators.

Early years provision is in line with national expectations, with the quality of full-day care much better than usually found. School inspections show that the quality of the Foundation Stage is good. Results are well above national averages, with particular strengths in sounds and letters.

The authority has taken action on the few areas of comparative weakness identified at the last APA and this has resulted in further improvement. For example, standards in reading and in writing at Key Stage 1 have improved and are well above national averages. Reading and writing have also significantly improved at Key Stage 2 and the achievement of boys is much better.

Children and young people's progress in secondary schools is faster than the national average and the rate of progress between ages 11 and 14 has increased. Standards at Key Stage 3 are good. At GCSE, the proportion of young people gaining at least five grades A* to C is above the national average and continues to rise. Notably, half of all young people gain at least five grades A*-C including English and mathematics, well above the national figure.

Standards and progress, though above average, fluctuate a little across the core subjects of English, mathematics and, more noticeably, science.

Inspection outcomes in all schools are at least satisfactory and often good. More schools have been graded outstanding by inspectors than in 2006. No schools are currently in an Ofsted category. The one school which had been given a Notice to Improve now provides satisfactory education. The authority targets support carefully to the schools where it is most needed. The quality of support has been recognised by national awards of Beacon status for school improvement and for early intervention.

The authority's analysis of examination and test results for summer 2007 show that the trend of improvement continues. At Foundation Stage, linking sounds and letters has improved still further and Key Stage 1 results are very good compared to similar authorities. Results at Key Stage 2 are the authority's best ever in all three core subjects; similarly at Key Stage 3 in English and in science. At GCSE there has been a further, significant, increase in the proportion of young people gaining five or more grades A* to C.

Attendance in both primary and secondary schools is above national average. Moreover, attendance in secondary schools has improved. The authority is aware that there are still a few schools where patterns of absence are more entrenched, but has strategies in place to address this.

The Tellus2 survey and the outcomes of inspection show that enjoyment is high. Behaviour in schools is good. There have been more exclusions, but this is part of a carefully managed policy for behaviour, which successfully re-integrates children and young people back into school. The most recent data show that the number of exclusions is now falling.

The progress of children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is good. The Department for Children, Schools and Families has noted 'exemplary practice' in how effectively the authority tracks their progress. The achievement of looked after children and young people is satisfactory and is in line with national figures. This represents an improvement on 2006.

Areas for development

- Improve science at Key Stage 2.
- Increase the proportion of schools which are graded 'good' when inspected, rather than satisfactory.

Making a positive contribution

Grade 4

Summary of strengths and areas for development

The contribution of services to improving outcomes for children and young people in this aspect is outstanding. The council continues to make significant and innovative efforts to support and encourage the development of children, young people and their families through a range of initiatives and services. In 2006 the City achieved a further Beacon recognition for early intervention in improving the lives of children and helping to prevent failure. Building on this strength the local authority uses creative means of consulting with young people, recently focusing on specific issues such as the anti-bullying strategy. The local authority has succeeded in getting young people actively involved at a time when schemes like youth forums were beginning to be less effective nationally. Numbers involved in volunteering to help in their community are less strong.

The authority is committed to anticipating problems before they become intractable. For example, a group of nearly 200 young people (10% of the population) were identified as possibly vulnerable at the point of transition from primary to secondary school. The local authority carefully researched and developed a successful transition programme.

Consultation with families and other stakeholders is very strong and highly effective. There was extensive consultation about the CYPP and parents' views sought on school provision. These views directly influenced what is provided, such as when the Children's Directorate acted on the views of looked after children in formulating its pathway plans.

The authority has used the Youth Service and its partners to focus on inclusion strategies for 'hard to reach' young people. The 'Positive Engagement through Choice' and 'Alternative Learning Programmes' focus on young people who have been excluded from school, the latter utilising one to one mentoring for considerable periods of time. Both schemes have been successful in getting pupils back into mainstream schools.

There has been a steady reduction in the numbers of first time offenders entering the Youth Justice system since the first quarter of 2005, with the total number now one quarter less than at that point. The authority recognises that the overall rate of re-offending has increased. The authority is encouraging schools to get more directly involved with young offenders, to help them understand the value of restorative justice.

In addition, in partnership with Connexions, the Youth Service seeks to prevent anti-social behaviour and offending through 'Youth Inclusion and Support Panels'. These target young people who are considered to be at high risk of offending or of getting drawn into anti-social behaviour. The Stronger Families programme also recognises the need to engage with their parents and has met the authority's own targets with 150 parents so far involved.

Children and young people with disabilities are involved as fully as possible in decisions that affect their lives, such as accessibility to leisure facilities, support in transition into education, employment and training and provision of services in children's centres. The authority is working with the Children's Society and 16-17 year olds on 'tell us about direct payments' and on advising about transport and accessibility. The 'Show me That I Matter' panel has been running for 12 months and has been effective in engaging looked after young people in challenging council officers about decisions and planning. They were particularly incisive in examining the decision to close one of the authority's children's homes.

The council has increased the reach of its programmes to encompass the needs of different groups of children and young people, not only those who are socially disadvantaged. For example it has supported gifted and talented young people through master classes delivered by independent schools. All the young people in the City can benefit from the extensive 'Schools Out' scheme with holiday activity programmes which this year involved almost 55,000 young people.

Area for development

- Encourage young people to get more involved in voluntary work in their community.

Achieving economic well-being

Grade 4

Summary of strengths and areas for development

The contribution of services to improving outcomes for children and young people in this aspect is outstanding. Young people's views on this aspect are in line with the picture nationally and in several respects better, indicating above average satisfaction. Family learning is excellent. The development of children's centres and extended schools is well ahead. The number of childcare places has grown to over 20 per 100 children, which is above national average and beyond the figures projected in the authority's plan.

The proportion of young people in education or training is very good and is much higher than average. There are very low levels of young people not involved. This figure continues to fall, partly as result of the successful personal development opportunities provided which encourage the young people to move on to more formal learning. Four fifths of all young people aged 16–18 are in some way involved in education. This includes an increasing number of those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, or who are vulnerable. Success rates in work-based learning are significantly up. The proportion of young people involved in this has increased also, though it is not yet at national figures.

Guidance for young people is good. There have been further improvements to provision, closely targeting resources to local needs, for example, by the opening of gateway shops and a purpose-built skills centre. The authority has taken recent steps to make access to guidance equally easy for all groups of young people, but is aware that these actions need to be developed further and their success monitored. The authority has made some inroads on ways to try to tackle homelessness.

The strategy for 14–19 education is well established and underpinned by strong partnership working on a range of sustainable initiatives. Headteacher and partners' curriculum planning groups are active at local level. Employers are engaged, though less well represented at the strategic level. Young people have a wide choice of curriculum pathways, including vocational. All schools now have a vocational offer and greater numbers of pupils are following such courses. College survey inspections show good links with schools have increased choice for pupils and had a good impact on their attitudes to learning and achievement. Preparation is well ahead for the introduction of four vocational diplomas.

Schools equip pupils well with basic skills. Half of all pupils in schools gain five or more grades A* to C at GCSE, including English and mathematics. This is well above the national figure and is higher than at the last APA. Provisional results for 2007 indicate that this figure has increased still further.

Results at Levels 2 and 3 qualifications are well above national averages. Over half of 19 year olds have reached Level 3. Achievement has increased in Further Education. Attainment at A/AS level is high, with sixth form provision particularly strong and one Leading Edge school established. The authority is managing to reconcile the

competing demands of these different strands and initiatives in formulating a city-wide strategy for 14–19.

Areas for development

- Seek ways to encourage greater involvement of employers in the strategic direction of 14–19 education.
- Look further at how to ensure access to impartial guidance for all-groups of young people.

Capacity to improve including the management of children's services

Grade 4

Summary of strengths and areas for development

The authority has made good progress since the last APA. It has sustained high levels of service and improved still further. It has addressed the points from the last APA very well, improving the reach of its services despite continuing budgetary pressures and low levels of funding. Many outcomes for health and for staying safe have improved.

Resources are targeted well, to maximise effect. The local authority officers have specific, delegated responsibilities for key functions and know their aspects well, getting actively involved. Data systems have been enhanced so that the local authority, schools and providers can pinpoint where there may be slippage from plans or underachievement and can target this promptly. Strong partnership working underpins much of this.

The CYPP shows clear analysis of need and identifies appropriate priorities. The local authority has thus far shown high capacity to manage its very tight budget and to cope with change. Moreover, an ambitious programme of capital funding for new-build and refurbishment is nearing completion, which has directly improved the quality of a number of schools. The authority's analysis of attainment in the 2007 public examinations and statutory tests shows considerable improvement yet again, in some cases representing the best ever results.

The authority is adept at staying ahead of the game, with continuing involvement in initiatives aimed at further improvement. It has a strong track record of becoming successfully involved in innovative practice which has been recognised at national level. Systems are well established and the local authority is small enough to know its providers well, to be able to build up good relationships with stakeholder and to intervene early to effect improvement.

These qualities serve the local authority well, providing the continuity needed to sustain performance during several recent changes to the key leadership posts. The opportunity has been taken to streamline and to integrate services still further. The new post-holders bring considerable experience gained at senior levels. They form a cohesive team who share the clearly articulated priority accorded by the elected


members to education and care. The council has to make further budgetary savings, but the children's services team are confident efficiencies can be made, without risk to core services.

Area for development

- Continue to ensure the smooth transfer of functions to the new structure and post-holders.

The children's services grade is the performance rating for the purpose of section 138 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. It will also provide the score for the children and young people service block in the comprehensive performance assessment to be published by the Audit Commission.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Juliet Winstanley".

Juliet Winstanley
Divisional Manager
Local Services Inspection

Pre publication



Executive Members for Children's Services and Advisory Panel

21 January 2008

Report of the Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services

Home to School Transport Policy 2008/09

Summary

1. To seek approval for a revised home to school transport policy that will come into operation from 1 September 2008. The policy reflects the new statutory responsibilities placed on Local Authorities as a result of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

Background

2. Section 508B of the Education Act 1996 deals with the duty on local authorities to make such travel arrangements as they consider necessary to facilitate attendance at school for eligible children. The Education and Inspection Act 2006 places additional responsibilities on local authorities and extends the right to free transport for a new group of 'eligible children'.
3. The proposed revised Home to School Transport Policy (Annex A), incorporates the new legislation and the recent guidance issued by the DCSF.

Options

Option 1 – to approve the revised transport policy at Annex A

Option 2 – members to propose changes to the revised policy at Annex A.

Analysis

4. The new statutory requirements incorporated within the proposed revised policy include:
 - The provision that children aged eight, but under age 11 from low income families must have travel arrangements made where they live more than two miles from their nearest qualifying school (Part A paragraph 4.2).
 - The provision that children of compulsory school age who are 11 or over from low income families must have travel arrangements

made to one of their three nearest qualifying schools, where they live more than two miles, but not more than six miles from that school (Part A paragraph 4.4).

- Extensions to the right to free transport for all children from low income groups of compulsory school age who are 11 or over in two ways – to a choice of schools within six miles of the child’s home, and to the nearest school preferred by reason of a parent’s religion or belief up to a maximum of 15 miles from the child’s home (Part C paragraph 2.2).
5. The City of York Council has, in the past, used a discretionary power to provide free transport for all pupils who attend a school for denominational (religious) reasons, provided the school is the nearest one for the appropriate faith, and the school is beyond the appropriate distance for the pupils age (more than two miles from a primary school or three miles from a secondary school). The proposed revised policy assumes that the Council will maintain this discretionary provision.
 6. The revised policy also takes account of the new guidance particularly around the eligibility criteria and appropriate transport arrangements for pupils requiring special arrangements (usually pupils with special educational needs), and the removal of free transport for pupils who demonstrate persistent poor behaviour whilst using the transport. It also provides clarification around the review of decisions when applications for transport assistance are refused.
 7. The new Act also places a general duty on local authorities to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport. There are four main elements to the duty:
 - An assessment of the travel and transport needs of children, and young people within the authority’s area;
 - An audit of the sustainable travel and transport infrastructure within the authority that may be used when travelling to and from, or between schools/institutions;
 - A strategy to develop the sustainable travel and transport infrastructure within the authority so that travel and transport needs of children and young people are better catered for;
 - The promotion of sustainable travel and transport modes on the journey to, from, and between schools and other institutions.
 8. The authority has received a small grant from the DCSF to begin the work as set out in paragraph 7 above. Colleagues from City Strategy have been commissioned to undertake the assessment and audit and once this is completed a sustainable travel strategy will be developed. The authority has a responsibility to promote sustainable transport and to reduce the dependency on parents transporting their own children to school. This will include consideration of extending transport provision to more pupils, which may include introducing a small charge for those pupils who do not qualify for free transport.

9. A member of the Review Panel has requested that the Council should also consider offering free transport to pupils who attend a school outside of their catchment area, who do not have a safe walking route to that school, but where there is an existing bus service in operation provided by the local authority. It is proposed to consider this request in more detail in preparing the transport strategy described above.

Corporate Priorities

This report and its Annex contribute to the following corporate priorities:

- Increase the use of public and other environmentally friendly modes of transport.
- Improve our focus on the needs of customers and residents in designing and providing services.
- Improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and families in the City.

Implications

Financial

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
	£	£	£
Sustainable Travel to School	12,566	12,566	12,566
Extended Rights to Free Travel	20,911	35,489	50,066
	<u>33,477</u>	<u>48,055</u>	<u>62,632</u>

10. The costs related to the general duty to promote sustainable travel and transport as outlined in paragraph 6 are expected to be contained within the available grant.
11. The extended offer of free transport to some parents on low income will increase the cost of home to school transport, although it is difficult to assess to what extent due to the unknown impact of parental choice. However, it is not expected that the additional costs will be higher than the available grant.

Human Resources

12. There are no HR implications contained within this report

Equalities

13. There are no equalities issues contained within this report although the proposed revised policy clearly seeks to improve access to free transport for children from low income groups.

Legal

14. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 places a statutory requirement on local authority's to provide free transport to three new groups of pupils as set out in paragraph 4.

Crime and Disorder

15. There are no crime and disorder implications contained within this report

Information Technology (IT)

16. There are no IT implications contained within this report

Property

17. There are no property implications contained within this report

Risk Management

18. There are no high level risks associated with this report. Financial risks associated with implementation of the revised policy will be minimised by careful monitoring and by the proposed future report to EMAP.

Recommendations

19. That the Advisory Panel advise the Executive Member:
 - 1) To approve the Home to School Transport Policy as set out in Annex A of this report.
 - 2) To note that the authority is required to develop a strategy that promotes a sustainable travel and transport infrastructure meeting the needs of children and young people (paragraph 6 and 7 above). Progress will be reported to EMAP later this year.

Reason; to implement new statutory duties arising from the Education and Inspections Act (2006)

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Pete Dwyer
Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services

Report Approved **Date** 07 January 2008

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Finance – Katherine Finnie 55(4226)

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex A: Proposed Home to School Transport Policy 2008/09

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**City of York Council
Home to School
Transport Policy
2008/2009**

Introduction

Section 508B of the Education Act 1996 Act (inserted by Education and Inspections Act 2006) deals with the duty on local authorities to make such travel arrangements as they consider necessary to facilitate attendance at school for eligible children.

Parents are responsible for ensuring that their children attend school regularly. However, section 444 of the 1996 Act outlines the situations in which a parent may have a defence in law against a prosecution by a local authority for their child's non-attendance at school. Section 444(3B) provides a parent with a defence if he or she proves that:

- the qualifying school at which the child is a registered pupil is not within statutory walking distance;
- no suitable arrangements have been made by the local authority for boarding accommodation at or near to the school;
- no suitable arrangements have been made by the local authority for enabling the child to become a registered pupil at a qualifying school nearer to his/her home; and
- the local authority has a duty to make travel arrangements in relation to the child under section 508B and has failed to discharge that duty.

Schedule 35B of the 1996 Act (inserted by the Education and Inspections Act 2006) defines "eligible children" – those categories of children in an authority's area for whom travel arrangements will always be required. A condition of each category is that they are of compulsory school age. Under section 508B, these arrangements must be provided free of charge.

This policy document is divided into the following parts:

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Part A | Home to School Transport for Children Attending Mainstream Schools |
| Part B | Home to School Transport for Pupils Requiring Special Arrangements |
| Part C | Home to School Transport on the Grounds of Religion or Belief |
| Part D | Removal of Free Travel Arrangements |
| Part E | Review of Decisions |
| Part F | Post 16 Transport |

The provisions set out in this policy include places other than schools where a child is receiving education by virtue of arrangements made under section 19(1) of the Education Act 1996 by the Local Authority.

This policy only applies to children of statutory school age who are resident in the area covered by the City of York.

CONTENTS

Part A	Home to School Transport Policy for Children Attending Mainstream Schools	4 - 12
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Part B	Home to School Transport Policy for Pupils Requiring Special Arrangements	13 - 20
---------------	--	----------------

Part C	Home to School Transport on the Grounds of Religion or Belief	21 - 25
---------------	--	----------------

Part D	Removal of Free Travel Arrangements	26 - 27
---------------	--	----------------

Part E	Review of Decisions	28 - 30
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PART A

Home to School Transport Policy for Children
Attending Mainstream Schools

CONTENTS

1	Statement of intent	8
2	Meanings	8 - 9
3	Travel arrangements	9
4	Provision of free travel	9 - 10
4.1	Children who cannot reasonably be expected to walk to school	9 - 10
4.2	Children who live above 2 miles (statutory walking distance) from the primary school nearest their ordinary place of residence	10
4.3	Children who live above 3 miles (statutory walking distance) from the secondary school nearest their ordinary place of residence	10
4.4	Children entitled to free school meals, or whose parents are in receipt of their maximum level of Working Tax Credit	10

CONTENTS - continued

5	Eligibility	11
----------	--------------------	-----------

6	Discretionary powers related to the statutory walking distance for secondary schools	11
----------	---	-----------

7	Transitional arrangements in the event of the re-organisation of school provision	12
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1 Statement of Intent

The purpose of this policy is to support the attendance at qualifying schools of eligible children who are of statutory school age by the provision of free transport.

2 Meanings

2.1 Qualifying schools are:

- (i) community or voluntary schools;
- (ii) pupil referral units;

A qualifying school also includes places other than a school at which a pupil might receive education under section 19(1) of the Education Act 1996.

2.2 Eligible children are:

- (i) children who cannot reasonably be expected to walk to their catchment area school because of the unsafe nature of the routes;
- (ii) children who live 2 miles (using the shortest, safest walking route) from their catchment area primary school;
- (iii) children who live 3 miles (using the shortest, safest walking route) from their catchment area secondary school;
- (iv) children entitled to free school meals, or whose parents are in receipt of their maximum level of Working Tax Credit who are aged 11 to 16 and attend one of their three nearest qualifying schools which is above 2 miles but less than 6 miles from their ordinary place of residence.

2.3 Distance

Distance is measured by:

- (a) shortest, safest walking for options (i), (ii) and (iii) in paragraph 2.2
- (b) shortest distance by road for option (iv) in paragraph 2.2.

2.4 Ordinary place of residence

The child's place of residence will be deemed to be the residence at which the child resides during the normal school week at the closing date for receiving applications for admission to school during the normal admission round.

3 Travel arrangements

3.1 Travel arrangements are those provisions made by the Local Authority for children to receive free home to school transport.

3.2 The duty to provide free home to school transport will be for the journey at the:

- (a) start of the school day; and
- (b) end of the school day.

3.3 The school day is deemed to be the session times as approved by the governing body of the qualifying school.

3.4 Nothing in the travel arrangements made for any child shall be for any travel between education institutions during the school day. Where a child moves from one establishment to another, in order to receive education, that cost will fall to the school to pay.

3.5 For arrangements to be free of charge, every feature of the arrangements will be free, except the provision of photographs (where required), which cost shall fall to the parent/carer to pay.

3.6 Travel arrangements will be:

- (a) normally a travel pass unless not suitable for the child's needs; or
- (b) refunded travelling expenses according to the cheapest available public transport route; or
- (c) mileage expenses in accordance with the Council's current rate for pupils requiring special arrangements; or
- (d) a place in a vehicle contracted by the authority to supply home to school transport (taxi, mini-bus or bus/coach); or
- (e) the provision of a cycling allowance; or
- (f) employ a walking escort/chaperone.

4 Provision of free travel

4.1 Children who cannot reasonably be expected to walk to school.

-
- (a) Where children live within the statutory walking distance of their catchment area school and it is suspected that there is no available walking route to that school the Local Authority will undertake a risk assessment of the route.
 - (b) Where the outcome of the risk assessment is that the route is not available to the child (accompanied by the parent/carer) free travel will be provided.
 - (c) In the circumstances where the risk assessment shows that the route is available, then the parent has the right to have that decision reviewed in accordance with the Council's procedure.

- 4.2 Children who live above 2 miles (using the safest, shortest walking route) from their catchment area primary school from their ordinary place of residence.
- 4.3 Children who live above 3 miles (using the safest shortest walking route) from their catchment area secondary school from their ordinary place of residence.
- 4.4 Children entitled to free school meals, or whose parents are in receipt of their maximum level of Working Tax Credit .

- (a) *Secondary School*

Where a child has attained the age of 11 years and :

- (i) is attending a secondary school; and
- (ii) that secondary school is one of the three nearest to their ordinary place of residence; and
- (iii) that school is above 2 miles but below 6 miles from their ordinary place of residence;

they shall receive free home to school transport.

- (b) Where a parent is offered a place at a school as a result of an independent appeal for admission to that school, the child will be eligible for free home to school transport where the conditions in paragraph 4.4(a) are met.
- (c) For pupils transferring into the school following 1 September paragraphs 4.4(a) and (b) shall apply.
- (d) The date of eligibility for paragraph 4.4(a) shall be 1 September 2008,

5 Eligibility

- 5.1 The assessment of a child's eligibility for free home to school transport to secondary school, will in the first instance be the 1 March for pupils transferring from primary to secondary school, and subsequently confirmed before 1 July in that same school year.
- 5.2 Once eligibility has been determined and confirmed then the pupil will remain eligible for the entirety of the school year for which the assessment is made unless the child's home address changes when a reassessment of eligibility will take place.
- 5.3 In each subsequent year the child's eligibility will be re-assessed on 1 July.

6 Discretionary provisions related to the statutory walking distance for secondary schools.

- 6.1 Where a child is attending a secondary school and they move house and the parent wishes the child to continue at the school the Council will consider providing free home to school or making a contribution towards the transport costs if the pupil is in year 10 or 11. The authority in considering the exercise of discretion will take into account the cost of providing transport, the length of journey, the ease of transferring to a nearer school and whether the change of address was voluntary or forced.
- 6.2 Where pupils are absent from their normal place of residence for reasons beyond the control of the parents, the authority may provide transport for up to three months from a temporary address if it is beyond walking distance from the school attended. This may include where pupils are being 'looked-after' by the authority on a temporary basis or where a family has been re-housed on a temporary basis by a housing association or authority.
- 6.3 Where a pupil of compulsory school age lives within walking distance of school, but is unable to walk to school because of a medical condition, free transport will be provided.

Evidence of a medical condition will be required from the family Doctor, though the authority reserves the right to seek further evidence.

Discretion is not normally exercised to support pupils who are attending a school that is other than their catchment area school. This is because transport is a parental responsibility for the whole time the child is at the preferred school.

- 6.4 The Local Authority has the discretion to make such school travel arrangements as considered necessary for any child not already

provided for in this section of the policy for the purpose of facilitating their attendance at school.

7 Transitional arrangements in the event of the re-organisation of school provision

7.1 In circumstances where the Council proposes to re-organise school provision which involves the discontinuing of existing schools and the establishing of new schools, transitional arrangements may be made in respect of the provision of home to school transport, which may also include the provision of free transport to pupils who would not ordinarily be eligible.

7.2 Transitional arrangements shall be determined by the Authority.

7.3 Where transitional arrangements are approved they will be stated in the appropriate statutory notices.

PART B

Home to School Transport Policy for Pupils
Requiring Special Arrangements

CONTENTS

1	Statement of intent	15
2	Meanings	15 - 16
3	Travel arrangements	16 - 17
4	Provision of free travel	17 - 19
4.1	Children with a statement of special education needs	17 - 18
4.2	Children with special requirements i.e. (i) a disabled child; (ii) a child with mobility problems.	18
4.3	Children entitled to free school meals, or whose parents are in receipt of their maximum level of Working Tax Credit and the parents have exercised parental preference	19
4.4	In-Year fair Access Protocol	19
5	Special Educational Needs Assessment Panel (SENAP)	19 - 20

1 Statement of Intent

The purpose of this policy is to support the attendance at qualifying schools of eligible children who are of statutory school age who have special education needs, disability or a mobility problem by the provision of free transport.

2 Meanings

2.1 Qualifying schools are:

- (i) community or voluntary schools;
- (i) community special schools;
- (iii) non-maintained special schools;
- (iv) pupil referral units.

A qualifying school also includes places other than a school at which a pupil might receive education under section 19(1) of the Education Act 1996.

2.2 Eligible children are:

- (i) children with a statement of special education needs;
- (ii) children with a disability;
- (iii) children with a statement of special education needs who are entitled to free school meals, or whose parents are in receipt of their maximum level of Working Tax Credit who are aged 11 to 16 and attend one of their three nearest qualifying schools which is above 2 miles but less than 6 miles from their ordinary place of residence. This applies from September 2008. The distance is measured using the shortest distance by road

2.4 Ordinary place of residence

- (a) The child's place of residence will be deemed to be the residence at which the child resides during the normal school week at the closing date for receiving applications for admission to school during the normal admission round.
- (b) Where the child subsequently move address the eligibility for free home to school transport will be re-determined.

3 Travel arrangements

-
- 3.1 Travel arrangements are those provisions made by the Local Authority for children to receive free home to school transport.
- 3.2 The duty to provide free home to school transport will be:
- (a) for children attending a school on a daily basis will be for the journey at the:
 - (i) start of the school day; and
 - (ii) end of the school day.
 - (b) weekly residential place:
 - (i) one journey at the start of the school week; and
 - (ii) one journey at the end of the school week.
 - (c) termly residential place:
 - (i) one journey at the start of each half-term; and
 - (ii) one journey at the end of each half-term.
- 3.3 The school day is deemed to be the session times as approved by the governing body of the qualifying school.
- 3.4 Travel arrangements will be:
- (a) normally a travel pass unless not suitable for the child's needs; or
 - (b) refunded travelling expenses according to the cheapest available public transport; or
 - (c) mileage expenses in accordance with the Council's current rate for pupils transported in the parent's/carer's own vehicle; or
 - (d) a place on a vehicle contracted by the authority to provide home to school transport (taxi, mini-bus or bus/coach); or
 - (e) access to the YILTS training package if appropriate; or
 - (f) employ a walking escort or chaperone.
- 3.5 Nothing in the travel arrangements made for any child shall be for any travel between education institutions during the school day. Where a child moves from one establishment to another, in order to receive education, that cost will fall to the school to pay. In some circumstances pupils will be formally dual placed at two educational establishments meaning they will be on the roll of two schools. In these cases transport will be considered to ensure the pupil is able to attend both establishments.

-
- 3.6 For arrangements to be free of charge, every feature of the arrangements shall be free, except the provision of a photograph, where appropriate, which cost shall fall to the parent to pay.
- 3.7 The York Transport Team will make arrangements to provide escorts to accompany children subject to taking account of:
- (a) a risk assessment of the child needs;
 - (b) age of the child;
 - (c) length of journey.

The provision of Escorts will be subject to a continuous review undertaken by the Education Officer (SEN & Transport) and School Transport Officer.

The provision of an Escort will not be written into the statement of special education needs.

4 Provision of free travel

- 4.1 Children with a statement of special education needs.
- (a) For children attending a special school maintained by the Authority and it is named in their statement of special education needs, free home to school transport will be provided for full time pupils:
 - (i) up to the age of 11 years who live over 2 miles from the special school;
 - (ii) in Year 7 to the end of Year 11 for those children who live over 3 miles from the special school.
 - (b) Where a child does not qualify for free home to school transport under paragraph (a) free transport may be provided subject to an assessment by the SENAP (Special Educational Needs Assessment Panel – see paragraph 5).
 - (c) Where a child attends a special school or other specialist provision maintained by another local authority or body, free home to school transport will be provided as set out in paragraphs 4.1 (a) and (b).
 - (d) Where a child attends a specialist unit maintained by the Authority the entitlement at paragraphs 4.1 (a) and (b) will similarly apply.
 - (e) Where a child has a mainstream school that is determined and named in their statement of special education needs by the Authority and is above the statutory walking distance, free home to school transport may be provided, subject to an assessment by the SENAP.

- (f) Where the mainstream school named in the child's statement of special education needs is their catchment school and is nearest to their home and is below the statutory walking distance, free home to school transport may be provided, subject to an assessment by the SENAP.
 - (g) Where a child has a mainstream school that is determined and named in their statement of special education needs by the Authority and where the identified school is not their catchment school but it is the nearest school to their normal place of residence and is below the statutory walking distance free home to school transport may be provided, subject to an assessment by SENAP.
 - (i) The provision of free home to school transport will not be written into the statement of special education needs.
 - (ii) The Authority in this instance may insist on the parent/carer paying some or all of the transport costs.
- 4.2 Children with special requirements or that is: a disabled child; a child with mobility problems.
- (a) Children with physical and/or medical difficulties may be provided free transport at the discretion of the Authority subject to an assessment by the SENAP.
 - (b) The conditions in paragraph (a) above can be permanent or temporary.
- 4.3 Children entitled to free school meals, or whose parents are in receipt of their maximum level of Working Tax Credit and the parents have exercised parental preference.

The provisions set out in paragraphs 4.3 (a) to (i) apply to those children not in receipt of free home to school transport set out 4.1 and 4.2.

(a) *Primary School*

Where a child has attained the age of 11, they will be provided with free home to school transport to their catchment area school where it is more than 2 miles from their ordinary place of residence.

(b) *Secondary School*

Where a child has attained the age of 11 years and :

- (i) is attending a secondary school; and

-
- (ii) that secondary school is one of the three nearest to their ordinary place of residence; and
 - (iii) that school is above 2 miles but below 6 miles from their ordinary place of residence;

they shall receive free home to school transport.

- (c) Where a parent is offered a place at a school as a result of an independent appeal for admission to that school, the child will be eligible for free home to school transport where the conditions in paragraph 4.3(b) are met.
- (d) For pupils transferring into the school following 1 September paragraphs 4.3 (a), (b) and (c) shall apply.

4.4 In-Year Fair Access Protocol

Primary and Secondary Schools

- (a) Where the Reintegration Panel determines, under the provisions of the In-Year Fair Access Protocol, that a child is provided with an alternate school place, free travel arrangements will be provided where it is considered necessary in order to ensure the attendance of that child at the alternate school.
- (b) Free travel arrangements will be:
 - (i) normally a travel pass unless not suitable for the child's needs; or
 - (ii) refunded travelling expenses according to the cheapest available public transport; or
 - (iii) mileage expenses in accordance with the Council's current rate for pupils transported in the parent's/carer's own vehicle.
 - (iv) A place on a vehicle contracted by the authority to provide home to school transport.

5 **Special Educational Needs Assessment (SENAP)**

- (a) The membership of SENAP includes :
 - (i) Head of SEN Services;
 - (ii) Education Officer (SEN and Transport);

-
- (iii) Inclusion Development Worker
 - (iv) Parent Partnership Officer
 - (b) SENAP will review the individual circumstances of the child and make a determination as to whether or not the child receives free home to school transport (see Criteria for the provision of discretionary transport).
 - (c) Where during the course of any school year SENAP determine that the provision of free home to school transport need no longer be provided it will cease at the end of the term in which the Panel's decision was made.
 - (d) Where a child receives free home to school transport it will be subject to review on an annual basis and particularly at:
 - (a) at the end of Year 6;
 - (b) during Year 11 for those children transferring to Post 16 in a maintained school;
 - (c) following the successful completion of Independent Travel Training (YILTS).

The parents of some pupils may be in receipt of the higher rate mobility component (HRMC) of the Disability Living Allowance (DLA). This is the gateway to the Motability scheme that supplies vehicles, adapted or unadapted, in return for the DLA, usually on contract hire terms. If a pupil is the HRMC recipient and the family obtain a vehicle through the Motability scheme, then the vehicle is supposed to be used for the benefit of the disabled pupil. When determining whether or not to provide travel assistance, the SENAP may take account of a Motability car where this has been provided for the benefit of the pupil.

Similarly SENAP will take account of the HRMC of the DLA where this has been provided for a child but has not been used to obtain a vehicle.

PART C

Home to School Transport on the Grounds of
Religion or Belief

CONTENTS

1	Statement of intent	23
2	Meanings	23 - 24
3	Travel arrangements	24 - 25
4	Provision of free travel	25
5	Eligibility	27

1 Statement of Intent

The purpose of this policy is to support the attendance at qualifying schools of eligible children where the parents have expressed a preference on the grounds of religion or belief (For definition see annex A).

2 Meanings

2.1 Qualifying schools are:

- (i) community, foundation or voluntary schools;
- (ii) community or foundation special schools;
- (iii) non-maintained special schools;
- (iv) pupil referral units;

A qualifying school also includes places other than a school at which a pupil might receive education under section 19(1) of the Education Act 1996.

2.2 Eligible children:

- (a)
 - (i) children who are entitled to free school meals or whose parents are in receipt of their maximum level of Working Tax Credit; and
 - (ii) are aged 11 to 16; who have been allocated a place at a nearest suitable school preferred on the grounds of religion or belief where their ordinary place of residence is more than 2 miles, but not more than 15 miles from that school;
- (b)
 - (i) children who are entitled to free school meals; and
 - (ii) are aged 5 to 11; and are attending their nearest suitable school preferred on the grounds of religion or belief where their ordinary place of residence is more than 2 miles from that school.
- (c) Children not entitled to free school meals and whose parents are not on the maximum level of Working Tax Credit but are attending their nearest suitable school preferred on the grounds of religion or belief where their ordinary place of residence is:

-
- i. over 2 miles for primary school pupils; or
 - ii. over 3 miles for secondary school pupils;

from that school.

2.3 Ordinary place of residence

- (a) The child's place of residence will be deemed to be the residence at which the child resides during the normal school week at the closing date for receiving applications for admission to school during the normal admission round.
- (b) Where a child subsequently moves address, the eligibility for free home to school transport will be re-determined.

2.4 Distance

Distance is measured by:

- (a) for children set out in paragraph 2.2 (a) and (b) on roads suitable for a motor vehicle;
- (b) for children set out in paragraph 2.2 (c) suitable walking route.

3 Travel arrangements

3.1 Travel arrangements are those provisions made by the Local Authority for children to receive free home to school transport.

3.2 The duty to provide free home to school transport will be for the journey at the:

- (a) start of the school day; and
- (b) end of the school day.

3.3 The school day is deemed to be the session times as approved by the governing body of the qualifying school.

3.4 Nothing in the travel arrangements made for any child shall be for any travel between education institutions during the school day. Where a child moves from one establishment to another, in order to receive education, that cost will fall to the school to pay.

3.5 For arrangements to be free of charge, every feature of the arrangements will be free, except the provision of photographs, which cost shall fall to the parent to pay.

3.6 Travel arrangements will be:

- (a) normally a travel pass unless not suitable for the child's needs; or

-
- (b) refunded travelling expenses according to the cheapest available public transport route; or
 - (c) mileage expenses in accordance with the Council's current rate for pupils requiring special arrangements; or
 - (d) the provision of a cycling allowance.
 - (e) a place on a vehicle contracted by the authority to provide home to school transport;
 - (f) employ a walking escort or chaperone.

4 Provision of free travel

- 4.1 Free home to school travel will be provided for eligible children where it can be demonstrated that attendance at a qualifying school is on the grounds of religion or belief.
- 4.2 Evidence to support the following will be provided by the parent:
 - (i) where the preference to attend a school is based on the parent's religion or belief;
 - (ii) where the parent does not wish the child to attend a school which is any of three schools nearest their home and within 2 miles based on the parent's religion or belief.

5 Eligibility

- 5.1 In each subsequent year the child's eligibility will be re-assessed on 1 July.

PART D

Removal of Free Travel Arrangements

- 1 The Authority shall withdraw the provision of free home to school transport where it is considered that a child has demonstrated such poor behaviour whilst using that transport as to put at risk:
 - (a) the driver of the vehicle; or
 - (b) other passengers; or
 - (c) used threatening or violent language; or
 - (d) damage to the vehicle.
- 2 The withdrawal of free home to school transport will be:
 - (a) temporary; or
 - (b) permanent.
- 3 Temporary shall be a specified number of weeks and permanent shall be for the remainder of the school year.
- 4 Where a permanent withdrawal is imposed during the Spring and Summer terms the authority will consider continuing imposing the withdrawal of transport for the equivalent of three school terms.
- 5 The withdrawal of home to school transport (either temporary and permanent) on a particular child shall not imply that travel arrangements were not necessary and should not be provided. The withdrawal would be saying travel arrangements were necessary and had been made, but that the child's behaviour was such that they cannot take advantage of it.
- 6 Nothing in this policy prevents the operator of a commercial service to exclude a child if they demonstrate poor behaviour as set out in paragraph 1.

PART E

Review of Decisions

- 1 Any parent who makes an application for free home to school transport under the provisions set out in the Council's Policy and that application is refused will have the right to have their case reviewed.
- 2 The review procedure is set out below.
 - (i) The parent/carer will be requested to submit a notice of review setting out the ground for their review in accordance with paragraph 7.
 - (ii) The documentation relating to the parent's/carer's case along with the comments of the authority will be presented to a review panel comprising three elected members.
 - (iii) A meeting shall be convened within 30 working days to consider the parent's case based on the documentation provided.
 - (iv) The decision will be:
 - (a) to uphold the decision not to provide free home to school transport;
 - (b) reverse the original decision and provide free home to school transport. The Review Panel can approve transport for a limited period subject to a review.
- 4 The procedure for hearing the appeals is set out below.
 - (a) Local Authority (LA) representative to give evidence on the authority's decision.
 - (b) Parents to ask questions of the Local Authority representative.
 - (c) Panel to ask questions of the Local Authority representative.
 - (d) Parents to give evidence in support of their appeal.
 - (e) LA representative to ask questions of parents.
 - (f) Panel to ask questions of parents.
 - (g) Summing up by LA representative.
 - (h) Summing up by Parents.

- (i) LA representative and parents to retire.
 - (j) Panel decision, with reasons, to be announced.
 - (k) Decision to be sent in writing to parents.
- 5 Notification of the decision made at the review will be sent to the parent(s)/carer(s) in writing giving a reason for the decision.
- 6 Nothing in this review procedure prevents the parent making a complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman.
- 7 Grounds for requesting a review of the Authority's decision not to provide free home to school transport are:
- (a) suitable walking route;
 - (b) measurement of distance;
 - (c) determination of eligibility;
 - (d) another qualifying school;
 - (e) religion or belief;
 - (f) exclusion from transport;
 - (g) SEN transport.

PART F

Post 16 Transport Eligibility

- 1 For students over compulsory school age the policy of the authority to enable a student to qualify for free transport is that they must fulfil the following conditions:
 - (i) the student must be aged post 16 but under 19 on the 31 August 2009; and
 - (ii) the students parents' joint net income must have been less than £14,495 during the financial year ending 5 April 2008; and
 - (iii) the nearest educational establishment offering the students chosen course is more than 3 miles using the shortest, safest walking route from their ordinary place of residence; and
 - (v) the student is attending a full-time course
- 2 For students who are not eligible for assistance under the authority's policy, can occupy seats on a concessionary basis on a vehicle contracted by the authority for home to school transport work if places are available.
- 3 For post 16 students with special educational needs please refer to Section B (Transport policy for pupils requiring special arrangements)
- 4 Assistance with transport for those students who have reached the age of 19 are considered by the authority's Adult Services directorate.



Meeting of Executive Members and Children's Services Advisory Panel**21 January 2008****Report of the Director of Learning Culture & Children's Services****Purchasing from Voluntary Sector of Play Services****Summary**

1. This paper sets out:

- The Government's recent announcements from the Children, School and Families Secretary on the national play agenda;
- A request for approval for the use of Better Play Grants for the purchase of some specific play services through service level agreements.

Background**Developments in Play**

2. Below are a number of key national, regional and local developments which have occurred recently in the play sector and which have directly influenced the work of the York Play Team:

- The development and rollout of the "Taking Play Forward" Play Policy which makes clear links to other strategic documents including the Local Area Agreement. A key indicator within the Children and Young People block is the number of providers that sign up to its ethos and objectives.
- The introduction of documents including Every Child Matters, Time for Play, the Children and Young People's Plan and the Local Area Agreement.
- The investment by the Big Lottery Fund of £155 million for Play nationally. The authority has now received notification of the successful bid through the Play Programme which sees York receiving £328K over a three year period for four projects with a focus on the outdoors and adventure. This is a very positive development.
- As part of the £155 million investment, the Lottery allocated £16 million for the voluntary sector, through the 'Playful Ideas' fund. The Play Team and partners from the Voluntary sector have supported a number of organisations to submit bids to the programme by the 31 December 2007. The outcome of this process will see the team continuing to support the successful applicants in developing their projects.
- The Children, Schools and Families Secretary has announced his 10 year vision for children, which outlines its commitment to play, including the

publishing of a play strategy by summer 2008. Also included is £225 million over the next three years, to offer every local authority capital funding that will allow up to 3,500 playgrounds nationally to be rebuilt or renewed and made accessible to children with disabilities; as well as to create 30 new adventure playgrounds for 8 – 13 year olds in disadvantaged areas, supervised by trained staff.

- In 2006, Yorkshire Play (a limited company and charity) was formed to promote play in a variety of ways across the Region. Yorkshire Play has a strong commitment in working with Play England and also holds a Service Level Agreement with SkillsActive to deliver targets for “playwork”, education and training. A member of the Play Team is currently a Director of Yorkshire Play which strengthens the authority’s links to play at a Regional and National level with a chance to influence the agenda across the spectrum of the sector.
- On the 6 Dec 2007, in a report detailing options on future funding arrangements and commissioning of services, members approved that the Children’s Trust develop a coherent commissioning process which can be utilised for wider usage across the city including play.

Better Play Grants

3. Better Play Grants are offered through the Play Team to purchase a specific activity or programme from an organisation involved in direct play provision. To qualify for funding, applicants are required to be constituted organisations with policies and procedures in place that are appropriate for working with children and young people.
4. The context for awards is *Taking Play Forward*, York’s play policy, which provides the framework through which groups can review their play provision in relation to the experiences of the children and young people who use them.
5. The scheme of delegation in respect of service level agreements is as follows:
 - Delegated authority for officers to approve grants up to £5K;
 - Delegated authority for the Executive Member to approve grants of more than £5k and up to £50k;
 - Grants of more than £50k to be approved by the Executive.
6. Funding for 2008/09 was advertised through the voluntary sector funding booklet produced and distributed by the Strategic Policy Unit. In addition, a letter promoting the availability of this booklet was sent to play settings listed on the Families Information Service database.
7. For the 2008/09 round of funding, the Play Team received 22 applications totalling £216,642. This year, officers received an increased number of applications with a large majority able to demonstrate how they work to the Better Play Objectives. Six organisations applied for grant funding over £5k. Of these, three have previously received funding along with a one year service level agreement, namely SNAPPY, Playspace and Bell Farm Adventure Playground. *It is recommended that these organisations receive an amount similar to last year’s funding.* Of the other three organisations that applied for

funding over £5K, one applicant requested £40k for a research project and, whilst it had value, it is more suited to be redirected to a more appropriate funding stream. The other two are recommended to receive a proportion of the requested amount within officers' designated authority. The other 16 applications are for grants of £5k or less and have also been allocated using officers' delegated authority.

8. The authority must allocate the Better Play Grant funding in order to continue to strive for the best outcomes for the play sector and for the children and young people. The latest developments both locally through a revised commissioning process and nationally through recent announcements must also be taken into account.

Options

9. Option 1 - In light of recent developments within the play sector, the Play Team allocate the three organisations over the £5k threshold a 1 year contract only, enabling the development of a coherent commissioning process by the Children's Trust which will devise joined up approaches to commissioning services for children and young people.

Option 2 - The Play Team will look to enter into a 3-year agreement from 2008 with those organisations that clearly meet local criteria

Applications for Service Level Agreements

Bell Farm Adventure Playground

10. Bell Adventure is a unique outdoor adventure play setting in York providing for a large number of children and young people participating in a wide range of activities including open access free play, sports and arts. In 2007/08 they were allocated £31,000 to enable to carry on supporting and promoting their activities. They have requested £34,000 for 2008/09 to continue this same level. The recommendation is to allocate £30,700 to sustain the service.

SNAPPY

11. SNAPPY have been working in the city for many years providing distinct play services which offer children and young people with special needs a variety of quality play and recreational opportunities. In 2007/08 they were allocated £36,600. In 2008/09 they have requested £48,500 and the recommendation is to allocate £36,300 to sustain their service.

Playspace

12. Historically, Playspace have delivered a large number of quality play projects and initiatives in the City. Over the past 2 years, the organisation has expanded its role in the sector to support community and targeted schemes including the YorOk initiative and the Chill Out Zones. As a result, Playspace are looking to operate in a more community development ethos. In 2007/08 they were allocated £36,600. In 2008/09 they requested £40,000 and the recommendation is to allocate £36,300 to continue and develop their services to support the community sector inline with the Taking Play Forward policy.

Analysis

13. Following the review of the play policy, it is appropriate to appraise all service level agreements and the length of time they are offered. With this in mind, the advantages of offering a year's contract would be to continue to support organisations in the changing play climate and enable the authority to develop a comprehensive commissioning process to utilise available resources through a joined up approach, whilst ensuring that they meet all necessary policy and monitoring requirements in line with Council service plans. The disadvantage would be that voluntary organisations are inhibited from longer term planning of that part of their service.

Corporate Objectives

14. Enabling the play sector to access the play grant contributes to achieving two of the corporate objectives – Improve the health and lifestyles of the people who live in York, in particular among group whose level of health are the poorest and Improving the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and families in the city.

Implications

Financial

15. There are 22 applications totalling £216,642. There is £129,000 available in the 2008/09 budget and so the recommended allocations are shown in the table below. A further advantage of offering a one-year contract would be to provide scope to respond to budgetary pressures in future years.

Organisation	Amount Allocated 07/08 £	Amount Applied For 08/09 £	Amount Allocated 08/09 £
Bell Farm Adventure Playground	31,000	34,000	30,700
SNAPPY	36,600	48,500	36,300
York Playspace	36,600	40,000	36,300
19 other applications under £5k	24,800	94,142	25,700
Total	129,000	216,642	129,000

16. There are no human resources, equalities, legal, property, crime and disorder or IT implications.

Risk Management

17. All successful applications to the Better Play Grant are monitored against the Taking Play Forward policy by the Policy Development Worker. Formal contracts are drawn up with each setting with regular visits, reports and monitoring forming part of the agreement. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, we consider that such monitoring means that the risks

associated with the recommendations of this report are negligible, and certainly well below 16 in terms of the risk score

Recommendations

- 18. The Executive Member is asked to agree Option1 and award amounts for the three organisations referred to for a one year period until a full review of the commissioning process is completed and an appropriate system is adopted.

Reason: To continue funding quality play provision across the city in line with the Taking Play Forward policy recommendations without restricting opportunities to locate play funding within wider future commissioning arrangements.

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Report Approved Yes **Date** 4 January 2008

Pete Dwyer, Director of Learning, Culture and
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Report Approved Yes **Date** 4th January 2008

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

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Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All Yes

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers

None

Annexes

None

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Meeting of Executive Members and Children's Services Advisory Panel

21 January 2008

Report of the Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services

Local Authority (LA) School Governors

Summary

1. This report provides information about the current position with regard to vacancies for LA seats on governing bodies, lists current nominations for those vacancies, as detailed in Annex 1, and requests the appointment, or re-appointment, of the listed nominees

Background

2. National benchmarking data on governor vacancies indicates a national average of 12% for LA governor vacancies. York has two LA vacancies at the time of writing this report.
3. Some vacancies will be generated by those existing governors not wishing to stand for a further term of office. The following table summarises the current position of LA vacancies and appointments in City of York schools.

Total number of LA seats in City of York schools	171
Number of LA seats currently filled (or held)	166
Number of new LA appointments addressed by this paper	3
Number of LA reappointments addressed by this paper	0
Number of LA vacancies remaining after this paper (excluding those where a nominee has been identified or where it has been agreed to hold vacancies)	2 (1%)

Political affiliation of LA governors		
Party	Number of governors	Percentage of all LEA governors
Labour	19	11%
Lib Dem	16	10%
Conservative	3	2%
Green	2	1%
Independent	3	2%
Others	123	74%

Identification of vacancies

4. The overall picture of governor vacancies is informed by a detailed database, which includes records of all schools, the structure of their governing bodies, individuals who serve as governors and terms of office.
5. From the database can be determined such information as current vacancies and terms of office which are due to expire. In this way the Governance Service can clearly identify in advance the actions which are required and act accordingly.

Reviewing Vacancies

6. The vacancy position is under constant review. When potential new governors are identified the candidate is interviewed to discuss their interest and suitability. The Chair of Governors and headteacher are also asked to meet with the candidate and show him or her around the school prior to nomination for appointment. This allows the school to assess the potential candidate in terms of a good match for the needs of the governing body and current governors.
7. Where a term of office is due to expire, the individuals are contacted to ask whether they would like their name to be put forward again for reappointment. Chairs and headteachers are contacted to invite any relevant supporting information. Where a reappointment is appropriate, this is included on the nomination paper for consideration by the Executive member with the Advisory Panel.
8. All Local Authority governors are required to apply for an enhanced disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau.

Political Balance

9. In York the LA governor seats are filled on merit, rather than by strict consideration of political balance. Just under a third of LA governors are, in practice, linked to one of the political parties. Amongst this number there is a balance which very broadly reflects the political balance within the authority. As and when a situation arises in which any party has significantly more

seats than their political representation would indicate to be appropriate, steps may be taken to redress the balance over a period of time, whilst always considering the need to identify the best possible governor for a school, rather than taking account of individuals' political affiliation.

Consultation

10. Consultation on the nominations for appointment has been undertaken in accordance with the agreed procedure for the appointment of LA governors.

Options

12. Executive Members have the options of appointing/re-appointing or not appointing to fill vacant seat as proposed at Annex 1.

Analysis

13. If Executive Members choose not to appoint to fill vacant seats this will have an detrimental impact on the work of governors bodies and their ability to meet statutory requirements.

Corporate Priorities

14. This is a statutory function, and as a result, not related to specific individual corporate priorities.

Implications

14. There are no implications relating to equalities, crime and disorder, ITT, property, financial, legal or HR issues arising from this report.

Risk Management

15. In compliance with the Councils risk management strategy, there are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report. Good active governance arrangements do contribute to effective school management arrangements and, as a result, reduce risks to the organisation.

Recommendations

16. The Executive Member is recommended to appoint, or re-appoint, LA Governors to fill vacant seats as proposed in Annex 1.

Reason: to ensure that local authority places on school governing bodies continue to be effectively filled

Contact Details

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Peter Dwyer
Director of Learning, Culture and Children's
Services

**Report
Approved**



Date

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

None

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers

None

Annexes

Annex 1 details the current position of LA governor vacancies and lists those governors who are being nominated for appointment or re-appointment.

LA GOVERNOR NOMINATIONS AND VACANCIES: AUTUMN TERM 2007

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Name of School	Badger Hill Primary School				
Number of LA Governors	3	Total number of governors			14
Current appointees	Affiliation	From	To	Restanding	Vacancy since
Mrs I Waddington	None	01/07/2006	30/06/2010	N/a	
Dr A Brabbs	None	01/07/2006	30/06/2010	N/a	
Vacancy					31/08/2007
Nomination(s) for 1 vacancy					
Miss Sarah Valentine: "I am very interested in becoming a school governor in a school within a community that has presented me with so many opportunities. I have many personal qualities which will assist me in the post of school governor. I am very able to work well within a group dynamic, contributing to a positive result, whilst also possessing the necessary skills to work on my own initiative. I have, through pursuing my career in the legal profession, called upon skills of communications, problem solving and decision-making. In addition to these skills I also have legal knowledge and experience which I feel will be of beneficial use within a school governors' team. I am involved in a pro-bono initiative mentoring a student at the York College of Law. In September 2005 I had the opportunity to assist with the Young Enterprise Initiative in West Yorkshire. I was business adviser for the Young Enterprise Team at Park Lane College in Leeds. My career has required me to develop marketing skills in order to increase the firm's profile within the commercial market and expand its client base. <i>Political affiliation: none.</i> Appointment with immediate effect.					

Name of School	Elvington CE Primary School				
Number of LA Governors	2	Total number of governors			15
Current appointees	Affiliation	From	To	Restanding	Vacancy since
Mrs G Dean	None	01/09/2006	31/08/2010	N/a	
Vacancy					26/09/2007
Nomination(s) for 1 vacancy					
None					

Name of School	Hob Moor Oaks Primary Special School				
Number of LA Governors	3	Total number of governors			16
Current appointees	Affiliation	From	To	Restanding	Vacancy since
Mrs S Jones	None	01/12/2006	30/11/2010	N/a	
Dr D Hopton	Independent	01/11/2004	31/10/2008	N/a	
Vacancy					20/09/2007
Nomination (s) for 1 vacancy					
The chair of governors has requested that this vacancy be held pending an audit of current skills on the governing body.					

Name of School	Hob Moor Primary School				
Number of LA Governors	4	Total number of governors			18
Current appointees	Affiliation	From	To	Restanding	Vacancy since
Cllr C W Fairclough	Lib dem	01/09/2006	31/08/2010	N/a	
Mr N Smart	None	01/01/2005	31/12/2008	N/a	
Mr N Coakley	None	06/09/2007	05/09/2011	N/a	
Vacancy					05/10/2007
Nomination (s) for 1 vacancy					
None, although a nominee has been identified and is currently going through the appointment process.					

Name of School	Naburn CE Primary School				
Number of LA Governors	2	Total number of governors			12
Current appointees	Affiliation	From	To	Restanding	Vacancy since
Mrs A Teal	Labour	09/06/2006	08/06/2010	N/a	
Vacancy					01/10/2007
Nomination(s) for 1 vacancy					
None					

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Name of School	Burnholme Community College				
Number of LA Governors	4	Total number of governors			22
Current appointees	Affiliation	From	To	Restanding	Vacancy since
Mr A Parry	None	01/09/2006	31/08/2010	N/a	
Mr I Cuthbertson	None	01/09/2006	31/08/2010	N/a	
Vacancy					02/10/2007
Vacancy					17/10/2007
Nomination(s) for 1 vacancies					
None, although a nominee has been identified and is currently going through the appointment process.					

Name of School	Millthorpe School				
Number of LA Governors	4	Total number of governors			20
Current appointees	Affiliation	From	To	Restanding	Vacancy since
Mrs L MacLeod	None	01/09/2005	31/08/2009	N/a	
Ms G Dempsey	Labour	14/03/2007	13/03/2011	N/a	
Mr A Swain	None	01/09/2006	31/08/2010	N/a	
Vacancy					31/08/2007
Nomination(s) for 1 vacancy					
None, although a candidate has been identified and is currently going through the recruitment process.					

PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT

Name of School: Danesgate Centre Management Committee					
Number of LA Members	2	Total number of Members			14
Current appointees	Affiliation	From	To	Restanding	Vacancy since
Vacancy					N/a
Vacancy					N/a
Nomination (s) for 2 vacancies					
<p>Cllr Keith Aspden: "Having been a primary school governor for four years in York and a teacher governor for two years in North Yorkshire, I am very aware of the important role that school governors can play in the life of a school and community. I am very interesting in supporting a school in the area where I live and represent on the Council as a councillor, in the Fulford and Heslington Ward Committee area. Working as a teacher, particularly in the areas of Citizenship, PSHE and humanities, and having a range of roles with the Council's Children's Services, equips me with a range of skills, experiences and knowledge that I can bring to the Danesgate Centre."</p> <p><i>Affiliation: Lib Dem</i> Appointment wef 1 February 2008</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Julie Gunnell: "I am currently a City of York Councillor and would very much like to join the Management Committee at the PRU/Bridge Centre. My council portfolio includes Youth & Social Inclusion along with educational committees/scrutiny. My current employment is HR and Payroll Manager for a local charity. I have a wide experience of working with a variety of organisations in a managerial role within the voluntary sector. Also I have experience of working for a charity where my role for two years included working closely with young people who had a variety of different needs. My experience also includes previously being a member of the Independent Management Board at a local prison. This provided me with experience and skills in an often challenging environment, but provided a very rewarding role and experience."</p> <p><i>Affiliation: Labour</i> Appointment wef 1 February 2008</p>					



Meeting of the Executive Members for Children's Services and Advisory Panel 21 January 2008

Report of the Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services

Establishing an Integrated Youth Service for York

Summary

1. This report summarises the progress towards establishing an integrated service for young people in York, since the decision in principle at the Executive meeting on 27 February 2007 to adopt a directly-managed model when responsibility for the Connexions service transfers to Local Authorities in April 2008.
2. The report analyses the financial, HR and other risks associated with the transfer, advises Members of the steps taken to minimise these, and invites them to recommend to the Executive that the decision to proceed with the transfer of functions and staff can now be confirmed. Certain details of the negotiations with the current contractor are contained in an "exempt" Annex.
3. The report also outlines some of the detailed planning work that has taken place and invites Members to approve a structure for the new service. This will then be used as the basis for making progress with the appointment of a new Head of Service and other senior manager positions. Members are asked to note other HR, IT and property implications, and the plans that have been drawn up to achieve a smooth transfer.
4. Finally, the report recommends that Authority rolls over three minor contracts with third parties that are currently the responsibility of the Connexions Service.

Background

5. As the Executive was advised in February, a number of statutory duties that are currently the responsibility of the Connexions partnership will transfer to the Local Authority from 1 April 2008. The main functions include the provision of careers information, advice and guidance for young people, as well as more specialist services to promote participation in education and training post 16. LAs will become responsible for targeted reductions in the number of young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET).

6. Connexions York and North Yorkshire operates on a sub-contracted basis. The lead body is North Yorkshire County Council, which employs the staff in the central Connexions team. This team then contracts with Vosper Thorneycroft/Guidance Services (VT/GS) to provide the core services such as careers education, and with a range of other smaller providers of more specialist services.
7. In February, Members considered the choices available from next April, including rolling over existing contracts, putting some or all of the functions out to tender, or bringing the majority of the services in-house. They opted for the latter option as being consistent with our vision for a wholly integrated, locality-based youth service, incorporating all the elements of information, advice, guidance, support and positive activities for young people aged 13-19. This vision is also consistent with the new service arm within Learning, Culture and Children's Services that incorporates all aspects of our preventative and early intervention activities.

Consultation

8. Consultation has taken place with a wide range of partners and other stakeholders. This has informed our detailed work on the scope and structure of the new service. Consultation has also taken place with young people, who now inform our service planning on a regular basis.
9. Negotiations have taken place with the current service provider, VT/GS, and these are continuing. Through VT/GS, we have also begun to communicate with the staff who will be involved in the transfer, all of whom received a personal letter from me before Christmas setting out the present position. We have also had a preliminary and informal meeting with Unison; further negotiations will take place in the New Year.
10. Detailed planning has been overseen by the Integrated Youth Service Project Board, on which sit the two Executive Members with responsibilities in this area, as well as representatives of the LCS, Voluntary Sector and Learning Partnership.

Options

11. The key options were considered by the Executive in February 2007 when the decision was taken in principle to bring these functions in-house; there is no need to rehearse these arguments again.

Analysis

12. It may, though, be worth re-articulating the vision for the new service in a little more detail. We would certainly subscribe to the Government's view that the main objective of the newly integrated services is about *empowering young people, giving them somewhere to go, something to do and someone to talk to*. In other words:

- *Young people will have more choice and influence over services and facilities that are available to them. Young people will be encouraged to volunteer and contribute to their local community.*
- *Information, advice and guidance services for young people will be more flexible and accessible. For young people experiencing difficulties there will be better-targeted support, coordinated by a lead professional.*
- *We will develop new and innovative ways of delivering services to young people and will share these new ways of working with others to bring about real and positive change for young people.*
- *We will aim to ensure that young people have access to a wide range of positive activities, and secure for young people an appropriate offer of “places to go and things to do” that reflects the Government’s ambition for youth opportunities set out in the national standards.*

13. We believe our detailed planning will enable us to move closer to these goals in the months and years ahead. The new drop-in centre at Castlegate is an exemplar of the kind of quality of service that we would eventually like to extend city-wide. The introduction of services based on locality “hubs” will enable us to explore new synergies with other parts of the service, and with external partners.

14. Our work since February has involved detailed planning for the new service, and action to reduce the risks inherent in such a move. This is covered in the following sections.

Corporate Objectives

15. As Members were advised when first considering this issue last February, the vision for the new service is consistent with a number of Council priorities including: increasing skills and knowledge, improving health and lifestyles, and improving the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected young people.

Financial implications

16. The financial, HR and legal implications of this exercise are intertwined. On the financial front, we are seeking to fund most of the *one-off* costs associated with the transfer (mainly accommodation and IT costs) from funds laid aside for this purpose from within the Youth Services and Connexions budgets. The details are at Annex A. We ask members to approve this expenditure in principle, subject to a reasonable degree of officer discretion over the detailed programme of works and the priorities within it.

17. The *ongoing* costs of running the Connexions component of the portfolio of services for young people will be covered by a Government grant. This has now been confirmed at £1,391,800 in 2008-09, not much different from the estimate of £1,408,702 made for the Executive last February. This will rise to

£1,418k in the subsequent year, and fall back to £1,396.5k the year after. We consider that this is sufficient to maintain and develop a high quality service for young people in York, consistent with the original vision.

18. Annex A sets out our best estimate of a budget for the Connexions component of the Young People's Services, including anticipated staffing costs, pensions, premises, and internal support services. It seems prudent at this stage to maintain a contingency element to allow for a negotiating margin (see below), or in case the one-off transitional monies prove insufficient to cover essential accommodation and IT costs.

HR implications

19. As Members will be aware, transfers of this nature are governed by the Transfer of Undertaking (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) regulations which protect the terms and conditions of staff who transfer from one employer to another – except for pensions and pension-related benefits. The budget at Annex A can be balanced if our view of the TUPE position prevails. However, at the time of writing some elements of this remain a matter of dispute with VT/GS. Should we lose the arguments, we could potentially face additional full year costs of up to £132k, although we would take steps to minimise this. Further details are set out at Annex B, which we recommend is exempt from public disclosure.

20. Annex B also refers to the consultations that will need to take place with Unison in the New Year; one informal meeting has already been held. The Annex suggests a negotiating position. In broad terms, we intend to transfer the new staff into the Council on their existing terms and conditions, apart from some minor administrative issues (such as payday). The new staff, of whom there are 37 in total, will be offered access to the North Yorkshire Pension Scheme. This has been included in the costings.

21. HR colleagues have been involved in the detailed planning for the transfer. We have sent an initial "welcoming" letter to all 37 staff (making it clear that final decisions have yet to be made by Members), and we will send them further communications as the date of transfer draws nearer. The new staff will be allocated to a restructured service arm which we have provisionally titled "Young People's Services"; this will retain the Connexions "sub-brand" (which is a national requirement) while still achieving the vision of integrated, locality-based teams. More detail on the proposed structure, and the thinking behind it, is offered at Annex C for Members' approval. This structure will be used as the basis for evaluating and filling the senior positions, according to the Council's normal HR policies.

22. No changes are envisaged to the terms and conditions of existing Youth Service frontline staff. We are sensitive to the need to manage carefully any concerns they may have. Overall, their reaction to the proposed integration has been very positive.

Legal implications

23. Colleagues from legal services have also been involved throughout the planning phase and their advice has been crucial in our negotiations with VT/GS. We have with their help examined carefully all other potential costs and liabilities associated with the transfer. We are satisfied that we have identified all potentially significant ones. The risk of unforeseen liabilities arising after the transfer date will be minimised through the signing of a carefully-worded transfer document which we will seek to agree with VT/GS containing standard indemnity clauses.

IT Implications

24. Colleagues from IT are now planning the detailed work needed to provide the new staff with equipment (PCs and – for mobile staff – laptops). The capital costs of purchasing the equipment, and the installation costs as we currently envisage them, will be funded from grants generously provided by the Connexions service.

25. The IT is essential to ensure the Connexions staff can operate the new Management Information System from day 1. As the existing system is the property of VT/GS, a decision has been made to source a new system that will be hosted by NYCC. Following a procurement exercise, a contract to build the new system has been awarded to a company called “Aspire” who have a track record in this field. Work is now in hand to ensure the successful migration of data from the old systems to the new one. Again, the costs of this have been funded by Connexions.

Property Implications

26. It is envisaged that the new service will operate from three locality-based hubs at Kingswater, Moor Lane and Fulford – in addition to the very successful city centre site at Castlegate which opened in the summer of 2007. A project has been undertaken with colleagues from Property Services to identify and cost the works that will be need to bring these properties up to the necessary standard to accommodate the new staff and operate the service for young people. Staff have also been consulted about this.

27. Perhaps inevitably, the cost of implementing all of the desirable accommodation upgrades exceeds the funds available, as set out in Annex A. However, we are satisfied that all of the essential work can be carried out within budget and in time to ensure continuity of service. The remaining elements will be put onto a longer-term programme. Over time, we would like to see all three “hubs” operating to the same high standards as Castlegate, and in due course we will see whether there are any funds available from partners to start to achieve this.

28. The Central Team for the new Young People’s Services will need to move out of Kingswater in order to accommodate the new “hub.” We have been

pursuing a number of options for re-siting the central team and will offer Members an oral update on the present position.

Equalities and Crime and Disorder Implications

29. There are no significant equalities or crime and disorder implications – except to the extent that an expanded and integrated service for young people in York will be better positioned to work well with the Youth Offending Team and the Safer York Partnership in their crime prevention activities.

Other Implications

30. The majority of Connexions' responsibilities are discharged through the "core" contract with VT/GS. However, Connexions also commission three well-regarded "Intensive Personal Adviser" services through small contracts with The Centre for Separated Families, CSi, and York College. Full details of these are set out at Annex D. We recommend that these contracts be rolled over for a further year, pending a full impact assessment in 2008. This will provide a welcome degree of stability in these three important specialist areas of work.

Risk Management

31. In a sense, this whole report has been about the steps we have been taking in order to minimise the risks that are inevitably associated with a transfer of this scale and nature. The financial risks are mainly around the outstanding TUPE issues and are explained in more detail at Annex B. We believe these risks are now within acceptable boundaries.

32. There is a clear risk to continuity of service to young people if something unforeseen happens between now and 1 April, such as failure to achieve all of the accommodation upgrades or IT installations. There also is a significant risk in migrating to a new MIS system with a new supplier – but no realistic alternative to the steps we have taken. Both of these risks can be minimised with the continued goodwill of the staff concerned (both within the Youth Service and the Connexions team). Good communications will be essential in the weeks ahead in order to preserve this. Members should be aware that the mood is a very upbeat one.

33. To sum up, and in compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, we believe we have brought all of the risks that might arise (ie Legal and Regulatory, Financial, People, System and Technology, and Operational) below the threshold where they would require a separate Action Plan. They will, though, still need regular monitoring, in that the composite risk (in terms of likelihood times impact) should be assessed as MEDIUM. This monitoring will be carried out by the Integrated Youth Service Project Board.

Recommendations

34. The Advisory Panel is recommended to advise the Executive Member as follows:

- (i) to note the detailed work that has been undertaken to plan for the new integrated service for young people in York since the decision in principle to bring the Connexions service in-house, including wide consultation with stakeholders, staff and young people, and intensive negotiations with the current service provider;

Reason: to ensure that the Council discharges its statutory obligations in the most efficient and effective manner, consistent with the vision of a professional, holistic, locality-based service for young people.

- (ii) to note the financial and other risks that exist, particularly around the TUPE matters that are still a matter of dispute with the current provider, the actions taken to minimise such risks, and to approve the actions and remit described in the exempt Annex;

Reason: to agree that while these risks cannot be eliminated altogether, our negotiations and preparations have brought them within acceptable levels.

- (iii) to recommend to the Executive that the decision to bring the Connexions Service in-house from 1 April 2008 be confirmed, and that the necessary steps be taken to effect a smooth transfer of staff and functions from that date;

Reason: to initiate the final steps needed to effect the transfer, including confirmation to the staff affected, and the drawing up of the relevant transfer documentation.

- (iv) to approve the proposed structure for the new service that is set out at Annex B.

Reason: to enable the new staff to be allocated to a suitable function and location, and to allow the senior posts to be graded and filled according to the Council's HR policies.

- (v) to note the IT and property implications, and the proposed upgrades to accommodation at Kingswater, Fulford and Moor Lane; and to approve in principle the expenditure of the one-off costs set out in Annex A, subject to reasonable officer discretion over the detailed works schedules and the priorities within them.

Reason: because these are significant elements in the transfer and the upgrades are necessary to ensure continuity of service with minimum risk.

- (vi) to agree that three minor but significant contracts with third parties that are currently held by Connexions (described in detail at Annex D) be rolled over for a further year pending a fuller impact assessment.

Reason: to provide continuity of service in three much-valued areas.

Contact Details

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and Early Intervention

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Pete Dwyer
Director, Learning, Culture and Children's
Services

LCCS
Tel No. 554203

**Report
Approved**

 Yes

Date

7 January 2008

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Financial : Sue Rothney, Principal Accounting Technician, Tel No 554229

HR: Lisa Thompson, HR Advisor, Tel No 554593

Legal: Matthew Waterworth, Senior Assistant Solicitor, Tel No 551095

IT: Laura Conkar, ICT Client Officer, Tel No 554347

MIS: Vesna Oldham, Business Development Consultant, Tel No 551985

Property: David Steel, Building Surveyor, Tel No 553338 and Barry Jones,
Children and Families Planning Officer, Tel No 554351

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All Yes

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

"Future of the Connexions Service" – Report to the Executive, 27 February 2007

Annexes

Annex A – Financial Implications

Annex B – Exempt Information

Annex C – Proposed Structure for the new service

Annex D – Details of three minor contracts

Annex A – Financial Information

One-off costs associated with the transfer

The *accommodation costs* associated with the transfer will consist largely of adaptations to existing premises to enable them to operate as fully-featured hubs under the new structure, and to house additional members of staff.

A programme of capital works has been identified at the three sites as follows:

Fulford

- Upgrades to the toilet facilities in the Caretaker's House to make them DDA compliant
- New entrance lobby in caretakers house
- New Interview Room
- Adaptations to Fulford Youth Centre to provide two interview rooms
- Professional Fees

Estimated total cost: £57-65k

Moor Lane

- Upgrades to toilet facilities
- Conversion and fitting out of office/storage space
- Provision of a cycle shelter
- Professional Fees

Estimated total cost: £27-30k

Kingswater

- Remodelling the existing accommodation
- Professional Fees
- Costs of temporarily housing the existing staff

Estimated total cost c £75k

Estimated Total cost £159-£170k

This will be financed from the following sources:

Transitional funds already made available by Connexions:	£50k
Connexions Transition Fund within the Youth Service Budget	£36k
Youth Service capital underspend that we wish to reallocate	£31k
Additional Connexions money allocated from their own underspend	£20k
Total	£137k

As the total cost of the desirable works exceeds the funds available, a prioritisation exercise is now being carried out. We are satisfied that we have sufficient funds to complete the **essential** works, and the remaining components will be added to a longer-term programme as funds permit. We may also be able to identify other small pots of money to add to those identified above, and if need be we can draw on the contingency element built into the ongoing budget below.

The *IT costs* associated with the transfer comprise the purchase of PCs and laptops, and the costs of installation including small works, trunking and furniture. These are estimated at approximately **£60k**. The bulk of these costs will be covered from Connexions' IT budget, although some elements will overlap with the accommodation alterations identified above. We are satisfied that we have sufficient resources to cover the cost of IT installation and maintenance.

Ongoing budget for the Connexions element of the Youth Services

With the assistance of colleagues from Financial Services, we have drawn up the following provisional budget for the next three years:

Ongoing Budget for Connexions

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
	£	£	£
On-going Revenue			
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Staffing Costs	1,085,955	1,117,913	1,146,280
Premises	60,000	60,000	60,000
Supplies & Services	25,000	25,000	25,000
Support Services	50,000	50,000	50,000
Other	125,600	125,965	126,339
Contingency	45,245	39,123	0
Total Expenditure	1,391,800	1,418,001	1,407,619
<u>Income</u>			
Grant	1,391,800	1,418,001	1,396,446
Total Income	1,391,800	1,418,001	1,396,446
Net On-going shortfall	0	0	-11,173

The contingency element in the first two years will enable us to deal with any unexpected items that may yet arise in the short and medium term, particularly those related to accommodation and IT, and any minor HR issues as set out in the next Annex. We will address the small shortfall in the third year in the longer term.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 2, 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Annex C - Proposed Structure for Young People's Services

This outline structure (illustrated on the next page) has been formulated to deliver a new, integrated set of services to young people from April 2008 and is consistent with the indicative budget available for the new service from April 2008. At an operational level the structure envisages integrated teams of Youth and Connexions workers managed by Team Leaders, based in three locality hubs in line with overall City of York locality policies. Locality Team leaders will also have a wider remit in facilitating joint work with other agencies such as the Youth Offending Team and Children's and Families Services through targeted youth support approaches. Castlegate, the young people's city centre one stop shop, is already delivering an integrated advice, guidance, support and counselling service for young people and adults age 16 to 25 and much of the good practice and recent experience of building this team will be applied when establishing locality teams.

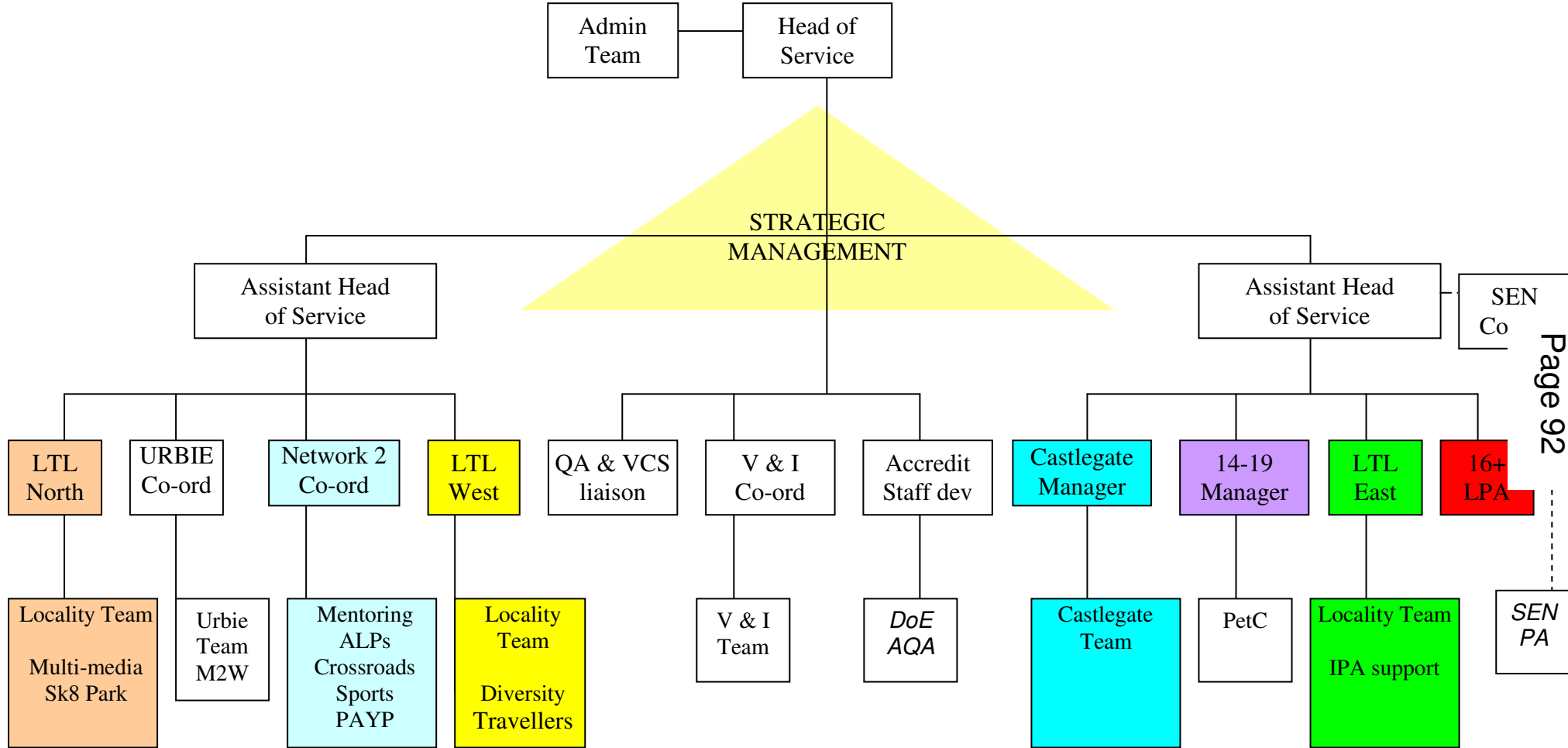
There are co-ordinators who will support a consistent city-wide approach to enable the service to fulfil its wide range of responsibilities, such as Voice and Influence, and Careers Education and Guidance Quality Standards.

At a senior level, the structure envisages a Head of Service and two Assistants, one leading on Youth Service activities and one on Connexions Grant Funded Services. Assistant Heads will also have oversight of the services from the hubs to ensure that an integrated service and high quality provision is available to young people. This is, we believe, the best way to achieve the integration of two groups of staff, providing a degree of continuity during a transitional period as well as taking the opportunity to look at new and creative ways to provide a high quality service to young people in the City of York which includes positive activities, information, advice and guidance and targeted youth support.

Once members have approved the proposed structure, we will proceed to evaluate and fill the senior posts according to the normal HR policies. For other management and front line staff posts we envisage that existing post holders will transfer across under TUPE or City of York HR arrangements.

We have also been considering the question of a new name and branding for the integrated service. Our provisional view is that we should simply refer to "Young People's Services" as an umbrella term, with the emphasis in future on the subsidiary "brands" that young people better recognise – eg Network2, Duke of Edinburgh, Connexions. We are required by Government to retain "Connexions" itself as a nationally-recognised brand. We will however consult young people about this once the new service has settled down and will report back to Members at a later stage.

City of York Young People's Services - Operational line management



Key: LTL – Locality Team Leader SEN – Special Educational Needs Staff dev – Staff Development and training M2W – Momentum on Two Wheels Project
 V & I – Voice and Influence Accred – Accreditation and awards ALPs – Alternative Learning Programmes IPA – Intensive Personal Advisers
 DoE - Duke of Edinburgh’s Award AQA – Amalgamated Qualifications Agency PetC – Positive engagement through choice QA – Quality Assurance
 LPA – Lead Personal Adviser PAYP – Positive Activities for Young People Programme VCS – Voluntary and Community Sector

Annex D – Connexions smaller contracts

Connexions York and North Yorkshire has worked closely with voluntary and community sector and other specialist providers in the City in order to ensure that the advice, guidance and support services have the best possible reach to vulnerable young people.

Since 2002 Connexions has funded specialist provision within the VCS to provide intensive support for teenage parents and young people affected by alcohol and substance misuse. These contracts between Connexions and our specialist providers are due to expire on 31 March 2008; our recommendation is that they be rolled over for a year so as to provide service stability and to enable us to conduct a full impact assessment.

Centre for Separated Families

1 FTE Intensive Personal Adviser £35k

The Centre for Separated Families in York has a strong record of partnership working and bringing an integrated approach through joint working with local authority and other statutory partners. Because of their expertise of working with separated families they are able to link young teenage parents into network sources of advice and support that sustain them into adulthood.

A recent impact assessment in October '07 showed that from a caseload of 12, 8 young people had achieved places in education and training.

Crime Reduction Initiative – CRi / First Base

0.6 FTE Intensive Personal Adviser £21k

CRi are a national charity working with young people in the Criminal Justice System. Through collaboration with Foundation Housing they have established First Base, a multi-disciplinary service working with vulnerable young people affected by substance and alcohol misuse. Connexions has commissioned services since April 2007 and they have demonstrated impact in helping young people in education, employment and positive activities.

York College / Askham Bryan College

1 FTE Intensive Personal Adviser £35k

Connexions have worked in partnership with York College and Askham Bryan College in order to provide high quality information, advice and guidance to young people to help them progress onto employment, training or higher education. Connexions funds an additional full-time post to work at the two colleges to work intensively with young people in the F.E. system who are at risk of leaving education. The post has been extremely effective in working with young people, college lecturers and partners in order to provide impartial support to sustain those in education though difficult times, such as family breakdown or homelessness.

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Executive Members for Children's Services and Advisory Panel 21 January 2008

Joint report of the Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services and the Director of Resources

REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET ESTIMATES - 2008/09**Purpose of Report**

- 1 This report presents the 2008/09 budget proposals for Children's Services. It includes:
 - The revenue budget for 2007/08 (Annex 1) to show the original budgets.
 - The base budget for 2008/09 including the 2007/08 budget rolled forward and adjusted.
 - The provisional allocation of pay and price increases for the portfolio.
 - Budget service pressure costs and savings proposals for the portfolio area (Annexes 2 and 3).
 - Fees and Charges proposals (Annex 4).
 - Other revenue budget options for consultation (Annex 5).
 - The existing approved capital programme (Annex 6).
 - Proposals for new capital schemes (Annex 7).
 - Residential Homes, Foster Carers, Sharing Care, Adoption and Residence Order Weekly Allowances (Annex 8).
- 2 Budget Council will be held on 21 February 2008 and will make decisions on the overall budget for the council. Proposals for savings/growth currently being considered by the individual EMAP meetings will not result in a balanced budget so the Executive Members will also have to consider other options. Further options relating to this portfolio are shown in Annex 5. In order to facilitate the decision making process the Executive are meeting on 12 February 2008 to consider the preferences identified by the individual portfolio Executive Members and the results of the consultation exercise.
- 3 The Executive Members are therefore asked to consider the budget proposals included in this report and identify their preferences, including the proposals in Annexes 2, 3 and 7 that will be considered by the Executive as part of the intended budget. In particular Member advice is sought on the items listed for consultation in Annex 5, which at present do not form part of the intended budget, but which may need to (see paragraph 2). Members of EMAP are invited to provide comments on the budget proposals in this report.

Background

- 4 The Council's Financial Strategy was adopted by the Executive on 11 September 2007. This paper is the result of ongoing work against this agreed framework.

Local Government Finance Settlement

- 5 The provisional Local Government Finance settlement for 2008/09 was issued by the Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG) on 6 December 2007 and also included indicative figures for 2009/10 and 2010/11 that will enable the Council to consider future budget issues. The provisional settlement for 2008/09 indicated that the government has transferred £2.626m from service specific grants into the general (Revenue Support) grant. Formula damping, by which the government try to ensure that there is a limit to large gains/losses to council's from formula changes, is still in force. The proposed funding position shows that the general grant will increase by £1.39m (3.63%) in 2008/09, £1.17m (2.75%) in 2009/10 and £1.11m (2.56%) in 2010/11.
- 6 It should be noted that this is a *provisional* settlement, and, as such, it is likely to change following consultation. As it is a three-year settlement it is likely that the authorities that are large grant losers who have significant resources at their disposal will be lobbying hard for changes to be made in their favour. It is also likely that there may be errors/changes to the data used by the DCLG when the final settlement is announced.

Schools Funding Settlement

- 7 For schools funding delivered through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), 2008/09 is the first year of a three-year budget period. The DSG is provided by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), is the main funding stream for schools' expenditure and is ring-fenced for funding the provision of education for pupils in schools (maintained, Pupil Referral Units [PRUs], Private, Voluntary & Independent [PVI] nurseries or externally purchased places). As such it covers funding delegated to individual Local Authority (LA) maintained schools through the Local Management of Schools (LMS) Funding Formula and funding for other pupil provision which is retained centrally by the LA (e.g. Special Educational Needs [SEN], Early Years, PRUs etc.). The DSG is distributed according to a formula, which guarantees a minimum per pupil increase for each LA of 3.1% in 2008/09 and 2.9% in 2009/10 & 2010/11 (was 5% in 2007/08). Additional funding is then allocated based on Ministers' priorities.
- 8 The LA by itself cannot use the DSG for any purpose other than Schools Budget expenditure, although with the permission of the Schools Forum limited contributions can be made to the following areas:
- Combined budgets supporting Every Child Matters objectives where there is a clear educational benefit.
 - Prudential borrowing, where overall net savings to the Schools Budget can be demonstrated.
 - Some SEN transport costs, again only when there is a net Schools Budget saving.

- 9 There are also strict limits (Central Expenditure Limits [CEL]) on the amount of the DSG that the LA can retain to fund pupil costs outside mainstream schools and PVI nurseries e.g. SEN, Out of City Placements, PRUs, Behavioural Support etc. At this stage the LA has no plans to ask the forum to agree to any increases in centrally retained expenditure above the CEL.
- 10 Annex 9 sets out headline figures from the DSG settlement showing that for 2008-11 York's increase in DSG is estimated at £9.669m or 11.6% and below the national average of 12.0%. As pupil numbers in York are projected to fall over this period, this equates to an increase of £489 per pupil or 13.5%, above the national average of 13.1% per pupil.
- 11 Annex 9 also shows that within these figures, additional funding above the minimum percentages per pupil (3.1%, 2.9% & 2.9%) has been allocated to York for a number of government priorities namely:
- Personalised Learning (£2,777k).
 - Pockets of Deprivation - *targeting pupils from deprived backgrounds within authorities that have an overall relatively low level of deprivation* (£673k).
 - Funding 6th Day of Exclusion (£21k).
- 12 Compared to other LAs York has fared relatively well in the settlement, particularly in 2008/09 when the percentage increase in per pupil funding is the 6th highest out of all 149 LAs (24th highest over the 3 year period). On a cash increase per pupil basis, York ranks 36th highest in 2008/09 (78th highest over the 3 year period).
- 13 The reason for this is the extra funding for "Pockets of Deprivation". This has only been allocated to 46 LAs as it is intended to support children from deprived backgrounds who attend schools in less deprived LAs. York has been allocated £30 per pupil in 2008/09, the 5th highest allocation nationally. There is a presumption that this extra funding will be allocated to schools in the city based on relative levels of deprivation.
- 14 Despite these increases though, York's actual funding level is still at the lower end nationally, 23rd lowest (out of 149 LAs) by the end of the 3-year period. This means that if York received the national average funding in 2008/09 there would be an extra £265 for every pupil or £6.036m in total. This would be enough to give an extra £266k to every secondary school and £56k extra to every primary school. This is also the equivalent of an additional 165 teachers or 300 additional classroom assistants.

Budget Proposals for Children's Services

- 15 A summary of the budget proposals is shown in table 1 below. Further details on individual elements are presented in the subsequent paragraphs. The annexes also contain other potential savings items, which at this stage are not being recommended to Members.

Table 1: Proposed Children's Services Budget 2008/09	Para Ref	DSG £000	General Fund £000	Children's Services Total £000
2007/08 Original Budget (see Annex 1)		83,942	25,991	109,932
2007/08 In Year Recurring Amendments:				
Allocation of residual budgets following Arts & Culture restructure			+1	+1
Housing Recharge Budgets Back to HASS			- 2	- 2
NNDR Adjustments			- 5	- 5
DSG Carry Forward Adjustment re Westside Contingency		+ 165		+ 165
One-Off Growth in 2007/08 Budget:				
Nurture Groups Additional Contribution		- 70		- 70
One-Off Savings in 2007/08 Budget:				
Information Sharing Index Grant			+ 20	+ 20
Broadband Standards Fund Grant			+ 50	+ 50
DSG Overhead Allocation		- 50	+ 50	0
FYE of 2007/08 Savings In 2008/09:				
Adult Education Centre Closure			- 3	- 3
2008/09 Base Budget	16	83,987	26,102	110,089
Schools Minimum Funding Requirement	17-19	+ 1,926		+ 1,926
Provision for Pay Increases (not schools)	20	+ 160	+ 661	+ 821
Provision for Price Increases (not schools)	21	+ 202	+ 386	+ 588
Fees & Charges Increases	22-23		- 160	- 160
Service Pressure Proposals (Annex 2)	24-26	+ 204	+ 906	+ 1,110
Savings Proposals (Annex 3)	28-29	- 207	- 480	- 687
2008/09 Total Proposed Budget		86,272	27,415	113,687
Funding Available within the DSG	30	86,329		
DSG Budget Unallocated	31	57		

2008/09 Base Budget (£110,089k)

- 16 This represents the latest 2007/08 budget approved by and reported to Members, updated for the full year effect of decisions taken in the 2007/08 budget and amendments during 2007/08, e.g. supplementary estimates.

Schools Minimum Funding Requirement (+£1,926k)

- 17 The DCSF have confirmed that the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) will continue to deliver a minimum per pupil increase for all schools in each of the next three years. They have estimated average school level pay and price inflation over the

2008-11 period at 3.1% per year. The DCSF have then assumed that each school can make an efficiency gain of 1% for each of the next three years, reflecting the substantial improvement in efficiency they expect to be achieved across the schools sector and the public sector as a whole. The result is an MFG for all schools set at 2.1% for each of the next three years. This is significantly lower than the 3.7% guarantee in 2007/08. The estimated amount required to deliver the MFG for all York schools is £1,503k in 2008/09.

- 18 The minimum guarantee applies to the funding provided by the LEA to schools via the LMS funding formula. The actual way the guarantee is calculated for an individual school varies depending on the type of school (primary, secondary or special) and the size of the school (separate arrangements apply to schools with fewer than 75 pupils).
- 19 Central Expenditure Limit regulations determine the minimum total size of the Individual Schools Budget (ISB). For 2008/09 an additional £423k will need to be allocated to schools over and above the £1,503k required to deliver the MFG in order to meet the CEL limit.

Provisional Pay Increases (excluding schools) (+£821k)

- 20 These calculations are based on a pay increase for APT&C and Teaching staff of 2.5% and an increase in pension costs totalling £621k. The negotiations for the 2008/09 settlement have not yet started, although there is pressure from the Treasury that increases are kept under 2%. In addition, under the national pay scheme employees are entitled to an annual increment where they are not at the top of the agreed pay scale. Growth of £200k is included for the net costs after allowing for new starters at the lower point of the grade.

Provisional Price Inflation (excluding schools) (+£588k)

- 21 The budget proposes that, due to the underlying low rate of inflation, there is a general price freeze on most budgets, including grants to voluntary organisations and partnerships. The amount allowed for price inflation is to fund known price increases, e.g. contract payments and fuel bills. There is also an allowance for a 2.3% increase in Nursery Education Funding and Foster & Adoption allowances (see paragraphs 43-54 for more details)

Fees & Charges and other Income Budgets (-£160k)

- 22 Fees & Charges are generally increasing by 5% except where there are nationally set charges. These are then rounded up or down as appropriate to create sensible figures. Internal services that trade with schools are also generally increasing their charges by 5%. Where increases are proposed in excess of this the additional income is either reflected in the savings totals offered or being used to address existing income budget shortfalls.
- 23 A schedule of proposed Youth Service fees and charges is shown at Annex 4. For Adult Education and the Music & Performing Arts Service, charges are set for each academic year. The budgets for 2008/09 have been set based on a 5% increase plus any specific savings targets set out in Annex 3. Further details will be presented to EMAP prior to September 2008.

Service Pressure Proposals (+£1,110k)

- 24 In the Finance Strategy report to the Executive on 11 September 2007 a sum of £7.828m was included as the estimated amount that would be needed to meet increasing demand for services and to allow for reprioritisation of service provision within the General Fund. Schools Budget pressures have to be funded from within the DSG.
- 25 A range of options for service pressure proposals has been considered and in view of the overall available resources it is proposed that only those proposals shown in Annexes 2a and 2b are included as the preferred options for Children's Services. The proposals put forward are the result of a rigorous assessment process, which included looking at the risk to customers, schools and staff, legislative requirements, proven customer demand and the Council's corporate objectives.
- 26 Included in these figures is a cost pressure of £459k (G01 at Annex 2a) resulting from the transfer into RSG of income formerly received as a direct Children's Services Grant. It is not possible to reduce expenditure against this grant allocation as it is currently used to fund statutory children's care services such as fostering and adoption rather than allocated to any specific discretionary projects.

General Contingency

- 27 Members should note that there are also some potential expenditure pressures that may materialise in 2008/09 but which are not yet certain or not quantifiable at this stage. The issues are listed in Table 2 below and it is assumed that if they materialise then funding will be requested from the General Contingency.

Table 2: Contingency Issues for 2008/09	£000
<u>Children's Social Care Fostering Costs</u> The number of children in foster care has risen over the last couple of years (total numbers of looked after children have risen from 140 at the start of 2006/07 to around 160 early in 2007/08). This has led to more children being placed through expensive Independent Fostering Agencies, as there are not enough places available with York foster carers. However, it is believed that the number of looked after children is now starting to fall back again and once the short term 'bulge' is passed the financial pressures should be reduced. Further effort is also being invested in expanding the local fostering programme. It is suggested that rather than providing on-going funding, a one-off allocation of £100k is made from reserves for 2008/09 (G03 at Annex 2a), with a further provision of £80k allowed for in contingency and a full review of the underlying position undertaken prior to 2009/10.	80
<u>Connexions Grant Shortfall</u> Connexions statutory functions will transfer to the Council from 1 April 2008. The amount of grant to be provided has now been confirmed but there are also on-going negotiations on the level and cost of the staff that will transfer under the TUPE arrangements. More details are provided in a separate report elsewhere on this agenda.	50
Total	130

Savings Proposals (-£687k)

- 28 Members will be aware that the 2007/08 budget savings were significant and that all Directorates are operating within a tight financial environment. In seeking to achieve savings for the 2008/09 budget, Directorates have examined budgets with a view to identifying savings that have a minimum impact on the services provided to the public, schools, customers and the wider Council. They have therefore concentrated on initiatives that:
- reflect directorate priorities and plans;
 - improve quality and efficiency;
 - take advantage of ongoing service and/or Best Value reviews;
 - generate income;
 - address budgetary underspends;
 - improve cash flow and interest earnings;
 - generate savings from the technical and financial administration functions of the Council.
- 29 Annex 3a and 3b show the full list of savings proposals for Children's Services.

Funding Available within the DSG (£86,329k)

- 30 The funding available includes the estimated 2008/09 DSG allocation of £86,527k less an estimated deficit carry forward from 2007/08 of £198k, mainly due to a small overestimation of pupil numbers in 2007/08.

Balancing the Dedicated Schools Grant

- 31 Table 1 at paragraph 15 shows that there is currently £57k of DSG unallocated within the draft Schools Budget at the time of writing this report. Further work will be undertaken in conjunction with the Schools Forum to identify options for allocating this funding, with officers recommending that additional resources are targeted towards Behaviour Support Services. At its budget meeting on 12 February the Executive will be updated on the outcome of the discussions with and decisions/comments of the Schools Forum.

Capital Programme

- 32 A summary of the Council's existing capital programme is shown at Annex 6.
- 33 The resources to fund new capital schemes are limited. Overall the existing programme is anticipated to generate a small receipts surplus of £0.6m, however, it is unlikely that there will be any new major receipts as all surplus land holdings have either been sold or are earmarked to be sold for existing commitments. A maximum of £1.25m is expected to be available for new schemes as part of the 2008/09 – 2010/11 programme, which if fully committed, leaves no contingency if sales are not made at their expected values. Against this background Officers have prepared a list of possible schemes to be considered for this portfolio. These are shown at Annex 7.

- 34 The additions to the Children's Services Capital Programme are in relation to the three-year announcements of Capital Funding made by the DCSF in October 2007. As these schemes are fully funded by grant or supported borrowing there is no direct impact on the Council's capital resources from their inclusion in the capital programme.
- 35 A further three-year allocation of School Modernisation has been announced. This is funding allocated to local authorities on a formula basis, and can be joined up with any other resources available to the Council which can be spent on capital. Taking into account assumptions already made about the 2008/09 Modernisation funding, this represents an increase of £3.7m on the existing programme over the years 2008-11.
- 36 A further three years funding has been made available under the Schools Access Initiative. This funding is provided for improvements to schools to make them more accessible to disabled children. This funding totals £864k over three years.
- 37 Funding to upgrade ICT across schools has been announced under a programme entitled Harnessing Technology. Under this programme York will receive £1.586m over the three years.
- 38 York is one of 76 local authorities who have yet to be involved in Building Schools for the Future who have been allocated £8m each over 2009-11 under the Targeted Capital Fund. This funding is to support Diploma provision for 14-19 Year olds, and to improve buildings for children with special educational needs and disabilities.
- 39 The Primary Capital Programme will commence next year supported by a three-year allocation of £1.9 billion nationally. The programme is ultimately intended to rebuild, remodel and refurbish at least half of all primary schools. York will receive funding of £8.378m over the period 2009-11 under this programme.
- 40 A further three-year allocation of funding for Extended Schools has been announced. This funding is provided to fund the capital costs of extending facilities and services provided at schools. York will receive £652k over the three-year period under this programme.
- 41 Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) is an amount allocated each year and devolved directly to schools to be spent by them on their priorities in respect of buildings, ICT and other capital needs. Schools are free to spend this themselves on small scale projects or use to contribute towards larger schemes. The allocations total £8.744m over the three years for York, although the allocations for 2009/10 and 2010/11 are provisional.
- 42 A report will be brought to a future EMAP meeting to outline proposals for the use of these allocations over the three-year period.

Standard charges for the use of Residential Homes and Foster Carers, Sharing Care, Adoption and Residence Order Weekly Allowances

- 43 Annex 8 sets out the proposed level of charges to other local authorities for the use of services within the Children and Families portfolio for residential care homes. The

annex also lists proposed foster care, sharing care, adoption, residence order and special guardianship weekly allowances for 2008/09.

Standard Weekly Charges For Residential Care Homes (Annex 8a)

- 44 A source of income for Children & Families is derived from charges to other local authorities for purchasing services (e.g. North Yorkshire Social Services Department) who purchase residential and day care places for individuals who continue to be their responsibility. Many of this group of people are either resident in, or regular users of, residential and non-residential services.
- 45 There is a requirement for the directorate to set these standard charges both to charge other authorities and to set the maximum charge payable by residents.

Minimum Payment For Foster Carers (Annex 8b)

- 46 A basic allowance is paid for each child/young person in a placement. Payments are calculated on a weekly basis according to the age of the child. The government sets statutory minimum weekly allowances for foster carers. The weekly allowances set out at Annex 8b have all been increased by 2.3% or higher if necessary to match the national minimum levels. In practice this has led to rises of between 2.3% and 3.1%.
- 47 Foster carers are also paid a weekly carer's skill premium. These premiums are calculated with reference to an appraisal of the carer's skill level. It is proposed to increase these premiums by 2.3%.
- 48 The Placement Strategy for Looked After Children established a specialist scheme that enhances the recruitment and retention of foster carers, who look after young people with exceptional needs in relation to their emotional and behavioural difficulties or severe disability. Foster carers are specifically selected for the new scheme to be matched with specific young people. It is also proposed that the weekly carer fee for the care of the young people on this scheme be increased by 2.3%. This is incorporated into the shaded area at the foot of the lower table in Annex 8b.

Additional Foster Carers Weekly Allowances (Annex 8c)

- 49 In addition to the allowances detailed above further allowances are paid to foster carers. A further weeks allowance is payable for birthdays and Christmas, and a further three weeks allowance will be payable for holidays taken during the year. Additional allowances are shown in Annex 8c. Again it is proposed that the allowances are uplifted by 2.3%.

Weekly Adoption Allowances and Residence Order Allowances (Annex 8d)

- 50 A weekly allowance is not paid in all cases of adoption, only in certain financial circumstances, or when a disabled child is adopted or possibly to encourage the adopter to take a sibling of a child already adopted. To determine whether an allowance should be paid to an adopter a financial assessment is carried out, using the DCSF suggested assessment model.

- 51 A small number of children in our care are subject to residence orders that replaced custodianship in 1991. A residency order means that the birth parents retain parental responsibility but the carer gains parental rights. As with adoption, a financial assessment of the carer is undertaken to determine whether an allowance should be given.

Sharing Care & Sitting Service Allowances (Annex 8e)

- 52 Sharing care is provided for disabled children who attend a temporary carer on either a day care or overnight basis, in order to give the parent or regular carer a break. The sitting service provides for temporary carers to look after children in their own homes. It is proposed to increase sharing care and sitting service allowances by 2.3%. Annex 5e shows the revised allowances for 2008/09.

Special Guardianship Allowances (Annex 8f)

- 39 53 A Special Guardianship Order allows carers to gain parental responsibility and enables them to override the parental responsibility of others (such as the child's birth parent) in day-to-day matters. Under legislation, Special Guardians must be offered support services, including financial support, if requested, subject to the same financial assessment as adopters. It is proposed to increase special guardianship order allowances by 2.3%. Annex 8f shows the revised allowances for 2008/09.

Rounding

- 54 The figures shown for all weekly allowances contained in Annex 8 have been rounded to the nearest figure in whole pence that can be divided exactly by 7. This is done so that the weekly allowances can easily be converted into daily amounts when processing payments.

Consultation

- 55 This paper forms part of the Council's budget consultation. The other streams being undertaken include a recently held public meeting where participants sat at tables and tried to produce a balanced budget after considering growth and saving priorities, a leaflet circulated city wide with a fold-out return part and a web-based process.
- 56 In relation to the specific proposals within this report that affect schools, there have been updates for headteachers as budget issues have developed. In addition the Schools Forum will meet on 4 February for a detailed consideration of the Schools Budget.

Options

- 57 As part of the consultation process Members of EMAP are asked for their comments or alternative suggestions on the proposals shown in Annexes 2, 3, 5 and 7.

Analysis

- 58 All the analysis is provided in the body of the report and the annexes.

Corporate Priorities

- 59 The budget represents the opportunity to reprioritise resources towards corporate priority areas. In formulating savings and growth proposals the directorate has paid particular attention to the impact that each proposal will have on the delivery of corporate priorities.

Implications

- 60 The implications are:

- Financial - The financial implications are dealt with in the body of the report.
- Human Resources - Implications are identified against each of the individual savings and service pressure proposals listed in annexes 2 and 3 where appropriate. In summary though, the savings proposed in Annex 3 equate to the loss of 3.0 fte posts (although some of these are part time posts) and some proposals which may lead to reduced hours or changes to patterns of work. Where requested HR has been involved in the development of the budget proposals and has worked with local managers to identify the HR implications of the proposals. HR implications will be managed in accordance with established council change management procedures. As part of this process consultation with potentially affected staff and their representatives has been undertaken at corporate and departmental level and will continue throughout the budget setting process.

Despite this there is still a statutory requirement for collective consultation with both the trade unions and employees where 20 or more redundancies are proposed within a 90-day period. It is anticipated that due to the number of potential redundancies and when the budget saving proposals become clearer, it will be necessary for the council to issue an Advance Notification of Redundancies (HR1) to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (formerly the Department of Trade and Industry) and the trade unions. Failure to do so could result in delays to redundancies taking place and penalties associated with non-compliance. The Council is required to issue this notification 30 days before the first dismissal takes place where there are between 20 and 99 redundancies proposed and 90 days before the first dismissal where there are 100 or more proposed.

The council's overall number of full time equivalent posts to be reduced is still yet to be established. Once this has taken place HR will confirm the required duration of the collective consultation and notification periods. Line managers must not issue notices to dismiss employees before the collective consultation and statutory consultation process has concluded.

Action is already being undertaken to mitigate the overall redundancy numbers through processes such as redeployment and controlled recruitment. Natural attrition, the retention of grant funding and attainment of growth bids will equally reduce the final number of posts to be removed from the establishment.

- Equalities - there are no equality implications to this report.
- Legal - The standard weekly charges for residential care homes as shown in Annex 8a must be amended in line with the National Assistance Act 1948. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Financial Information Service book shows that "residents in accommodation managed by

the local authority are expected to pay at the maximum, the 'standard' charge fixed by the local authority (section 22(2) of the 1948 Act), or where the resident satisfies the authority that he/she is unable to pay the standard fixed rate, a lower rate based upon the resident's ability to pay." The relevant items of legislation regarding the allowances paid to carers as shown in Annexes 8b to 8e are The Foster Placement (Children) Regulations 1991 and The Adoption Support Services Regulations 2005."

- Crime and Disorder - there are no specific crime and disorder implications to this report.
- Information Technology - there are no information technology implications to this report.
- Property - there are no property implications to this report.

Risk Management

- 61 Key reporting mechanisms to Members on budget matters will continue to be through mid-year monitoring reports and the final Revenue Outturn report for the year. The format/timing of these reports has recently been considered by the Council's Management Team but as a minimum they will report on forecast out-turn compared to budgets and will also address the progress made on investments and savings included within the budgets.
- 62 The budget setting process always entails a degree of risk as managers attempt to assess known and uncertain future events. This year has demonstrated the difficulty of achieving this. As with any budget the key to mitigating risk is prompt monitoring and appropriate management control. As such updated figures and revised corrective actions will be monitored via Directorate Management Teams, Corporate Management Team and the monitor reports during the year.

Recommendations

- 63 The Executive Member Advisory Panel is invited to consider whether the budget proposals are in line with the Council's priorities.
- 64 The Executive Member Advisory Panel is invited to provide comments on the budget proposals for savings and growth which have been prepared by Officers and contained in this report, which are intended to form part of the Council's budget to be considered by the Budget Executive on 12 February 2008.
- 65 The Executive Member Advisory Panel is invited to provide comments on the areas for consultation for the revenue budget contained in this report, which may form part of the Council's budget to be considered by the Budget Executive on 12 February 2008.
- 66 The Executive Member Advisory Panel is invited to provide comments on the capital proposals which have been prepared by Officers and contained in this report, which are intended to form part of the Council's budget to be considered by the Budget Executive on 12 February 2008.
- 67 The Executive Member is invited to consider whether the budget proposals are in line with the Council's priorities.

68 The Executive Member is asked to consider the budget proposals for consultation for Children's Services for 2008/09 contained in this report and listed below and provide comments to be submitted to the Budget Executive on 12 February 2008.

- 2008/09 Base Budget as set out in paragraphs 15 to 21
- Service Pressure Proposals as set out in Annex 2
- Savings Proposals as set out in Annex 3
- Fees and Charges as set out in Annex 4
- Other Revenue Budget Options for Consultation as set out in Annex 5
- Proposals for New Capital Schemes in Annex 7
- Residential Homes and Foster Carers, Sharing Care, Adoption and Residence Order Weekly Allowances as set out at Annex 8

Reason: As part of the consultation on the Children's Services budget for 2008/09.

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	Report Approved	√	Date 9 January 2008
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Wards Affected:	All	√	
For further information please contact the author of the report			

Annex 1 - 2007/08 Original Budgets

Annex 2 - Service Pressure Proposals

Annex 3 - Savings Proposals

Annex 4 - Fees & Charges Schedules

Annex 5 - Other Revenue Budget Options For Consultation

Annex 6 - The Existing Approved Capital Programme

Annex 7 - Options For New Capital Schemes

Annex 8 - Residential Homes, Foster Carers, Sharing Care, Adoption and Residence Order Weekly Allowances

Annex 9 - Dedicated Schools Grant Settlement Headlines

Background Papers

2008/09 Budget Files

Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement - December 2007

Dedicated Schools Grant Settlement 2008-11 – December 2007

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LEARNING, CULTURE AND CHILDREN'S SERVICESSERVICE PLANCHILDREN'S SERVICES - SUMMARY

<u>DETAILED EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>COST CENTRE EXPENDITURE</u>	
	2007/08 BUDGET £'000		2007/08 BUDGET £'000
EMPLOYEES	19,518	CHILDREN & FAMILIES	14,878
PREMISES	4,502	LIFELONG LEARNING & CULTURE	341
TRANSPORT	2,909	PARTNERSHIPS & EARLY INTERVENTION	4,253
SUPPLIES & SERVICES	13,218	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	6,908
MISCELLANEOUS		SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT & STAFF DEVELOPMENT	4,411
- RECHARGES	11,821	SCHOOL FUNDING & CONTRACTS	79,142
- DELEGATED & DEVOLVED	90,983	DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT	(83,942)
- OTHER	3,676		
CAPITAL FINANCING	5,998		
GROSS EXPENDITURE	152,625		
INCOME	(126,634)		
NET EXPENDITURE	25,991	NET EXPENDITURE	25,991

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Children's Services - General Fund Service Pressure Proposals - 2008/09

Brief Description	Net Cost			One-Off
	2008/09 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000	
CHILDREN & FAMILIES				
Children's Social Services				
<u>G01 - Children's Services Grant (LCRG7)</u>				
The Children's Services Grant has been transferred to formula grant from 2008/09. The grant funds statutory expenditure across Children's Services.	459	459	459	
<u>G02 - Legal Fees (LCDG1)</u>				
On-going overspend on legal fees due to an increase in the number of complex (i.e. expensive) court cases involving York children, together with a general increase in the cost of cases resulting from a national trend for courts to call in more expert witnesses.	70	70	70	
<u>G03 - Fostering Costs (LCDG10)</u>				
The number of children in foster care has risen over the last couple of years (total numbers of looked after children have risen from 140 at the start of 2006/07 to around 160 early in 2007/08). This has led to more children being placed through expensive Independent Fostering Agencies as there are not enough places available with York foster carers. However, it is believed that the number of looked after children is now starting to fall back again and once the short term 'bulge' is passed the financial pressures should be reduced. Further effort is also being invested in expanding the local fostering programme. It is suggested that rather than providing on-going funding, a one-off allocation of £100k is made from reserves for 2008/09, with a further provision of £80k allowed for in contingency and a full review of the underlying position undertaken prior to 2009/10.	100			✓
PARTNERSHIPS & EARLY INTERVENTION				
Youth Service				
<u>G04 - Unbudgeted Premises Costs (LCYG4)</u>				
Costs which are being incurred in maintaining spare premises because of delays in removing these buildings from the Youth Service portfolio following the restructure of the service (e.g. Sanderson House).	15	15	15	
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT				
Access Services				
<u>G05 - Home to School Transport (LCDG6)</u>				
SEN transport costs have risen significantly over the last few years due to more SEN pupils requiring transport and escorts to special schools as a consequence of action taken to maintain children with SEN within the city rather than in expensive out of city residential placements. In addition there has been an increase in discretionary expenditure due to the number of appeals being granted, and the price increases in taxi contracts for all journeys have on average been higher than the budgeted for. The growth is for one year only pending the outcome of the corporate review of transport being undertaken by Kendric Ash.	150			✓

Brief Description	Net Cost			One-Off
	2008/09 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000	
<p>Human Resources</p> <p><u>G06 - Safer Recruitment CRB Clearances (LCNG3)</u> Implementing the latest government guidance will entail carrying out an increased number of checks on new starters and introducing a regular refresh of the checks for existing staff. The rechecks will be phased over three years based on a risk assessment exercise currently being undertaken. Staff training will also be required.</p>	15	15	15	
<p>ICT Client Services</p> <p><u>G07 - Support Staff Increase (LCDG7)</u> Insufficient resources were transferred to LCCS from HASS at the time of the transfer of Children's Social Services functions to support all of the ICT needs of the new directorate. A requirement for 1.5 - 2.0 ftes was established based on workload by LCCS but HASS were only able to identify resources sufficient for 0.5fte to be transferred. This has been used to employ one full time ICT support technician from October 2007 to September 2008 on a temporary contract. In addition a £42k DCSF grant that is currently supporting a project manager to implement the Integrated Children's System has been withdrawn from 2008/09. This is a critically important system and the post needs to be retained. This request is to extend both contracts to March 2009 pending a full review of directorate ICT support requirements that is currently being undertaken by the Head of Central ICT.</p>	57			✓
<p>Management Information Service</p> <p><u>G08 - School Workforce Census (LCNG2)</u> The School Census currently has two levels: pupil level and school level. The DfES is currently working with pilot LAs to create a new level — the School Workforce (SWF) level, based on the School Workforce (formerly 'Adult') Common Basic Data Set. York's census will be required from January 2009. The new census will be extensive and will include basic details on all staff, hours worked, pay scales, absence, roles, qualifications and a range of other data. The census is currently being planned as a termly collection. Significant additional work will be required around the collection of data, training for schools, updating of school MIS's and liaison with HR colleagues. York will be carrying out a pilot with 10% of schools in January 2009 and a pilot with all schools in September 2009, with the full termly census to begin in January 2010.</p>	7	7	7	
<p>Strategic Management</p> <p><u>G09 - Soulbury Staff Performance Awards (LCUG1)</u> New addition to staff terms and conditions entitling Soulbury staff to be considered for an additional increment based on meeting performance targets. The expectation is that the vast majority of staff will be awarded an additional point for achieving the required standard of performance.</p>	28	28	28	

Brief Description	Net Cost			One-Off
	2008/09 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000	
<p>SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT & STAFF DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Educational Development Service</p> <p>G10 - SACRE - 5 Year Curriculum Review (LCNG5)</p> <p>Religious Education is not part of the National Curriculum but must be taught in schools by law. The syllabus has to be produced locally and is known as the agreed syllabus. Each local authority must appoint a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education and one of the functions of this body is to carry out a 5 yearly review of the RE curriculum in the local authority. This review is due to be carried out in 2008/09 and will require increased support from the Advisory Service.</p>	5			✓

Recurring Bids Total	594	594	594
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One-off Bids Total	312	0	0
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Children's Services - DSG Service Pressure Proposals - 2008/09

Brief Description	Net Cost		
	2008/09 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000
CHILDREN & FAMILIES			
Children's Social Services			
<u>G11 - Children In Need - Education Support Worker Post (reLCHS5)</u> Additional resource required within the Schools Budget to fund the General Fund saving SP02 at Annex 3a.	24	24	24
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT			
Access Services			
<u>G12 - Home to School Transport (reLCDG6)</u> Additional resource required within the Schools Budget to fund the General Fund saving SP14 at Annex 3a.	100	100	100
Strategic Management			
<u>G13 - Dedicated Schools Grant Overhead Allocation</u> Additional resource required within the Schools Budget to fund the General Fund saving SP28 at Annex 3a.	50	50	50
<u>G14 - Soulbury Staff Performance Awards (LCUG1)</u> New addition to staff terms and conditions entitling Soulbury staff to be considered for an additional increment based on meeting performance targets. The expectation is that the vast majority of staff will be awarded an additional point for achieving the required standard of performance.	30	30	30

Recurring Bids Total	204	204	204
One-off Bids Total	0	0	0

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Children's Services - General Fund Savings Proposals - 2008/09

	Net Saving		
	2008/09 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000
CHILDREN & FAMILIES			
Children's Social Services			
<u>SP01 - Family Support Service Reconfiguration (LCHS3)</u>			
Family Support staff support the activities of Social Workers. The saving equates to the reduction of 1 fte post out of a total staffing complement of 18 ftes. In light of the move to Integrated Children Centres (ICCs) there is an opportunity to review how the service is structured and funded. It may be possible to deliver the saving by allocating a proportion of the ICC grant that will be received over the next 3 years to the service.	24	24	24
<u>SP02 - Children In Need - Education Support Worker Post (LCHS5)</u>			
This post was created in 2006 by reinvesting some of the savings made when the Bismarck Street Children's Home was closed. The post works mainly with children in school settings and it is now proposed to fund this from within the DSG funded Schools Budget.	24	24	24
<u>SP03 - Children & Families Planning Officer (LCHS1)</u>			
This post is currently seconded to the Children's Trust Unit. It should be possible to work with partner organisations to agree other contributions towards the post. The saving is based on the assumption that matched funding of 50% could be achieved.	19	19	19
<u>SP04 - Children's Rights Service - Non Staffing Efficiencies (LCLS1)</u>			
A review of budget headings shows that efficiency savings can be made to reflect small changes in activity levels and procedures which have not previously been reflected in budget setting.	13	13	13
<u>SP05 - 11 Plus Administration Team - Delete 0.5 Clerical Post (LCHDS1)</u>			
Delete a 0.5 fte post, out of a total staffing complement of 3.8 ftes, from the administration team based at Hollycroft.	9	9	9
<u>SP06 - Looked After Children IT (LCMDS1)</u>			
A reduction in the IT budget. This budget was originally used to pay for access to a fostering website which is no longer in existence, and is now used to fund general computer hardware / software costs across the Children & Families Service.	7	7	7
Education Welfare Service			
<u>SP07 - Welfare Officer - Delete Vacant Post (LCLDS1)</u>			
There is currently a 0.2 fte vacant post in the team (total size 9.0 ftes) which could be left unfilled.	5	5	5
<u>SP08 - Welfare Officer - Reduce Post to Term Time Only (LCLDS2)</u>			
This saving can be achieved via reduction in the budget allocated for a member of staff who is currently budgeted as full time but actually works term time only.	3	3	3
<u>SP09 - Welfare Service Training Budget Reduction (LCMDS2)</u>			
Savings that can be made in the training budget which is expected to be underspent this year and was underspent in 2006/07.	2	2	2
LIFELONG LEARNING & CULTURE			
Adult & Community Education			
<u>SP10 - Lifelong Learning Partnership - Cut Grant (LCMDS4)</u>			
This grant is used to support the core costs of the Learning Partnership. CYC is the only organisation to make this contribution in cash (other organisations make in kind contributions).	8	8	8

	Net Saving		
	2008/09 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000
<u>SP11 - Access Funding For SELECT Programme (LCMDS3)</u> The access fund was set up this year to support students who could not otherwise afford the fee for the new SELECT courses (full cost recovery courses where student fee income completely covers the cost of the programme). These courses are at the leisure end of the programme of activities that the service offers, consisting of mainly fitness, dance and sports.	3	3	3
<u>PARTNERSHIPS & EARLY INTERVENTION</u>			
<u>Youth Service</u>			
<u>SP12 - Schools Counselling Service (LCHS20)</u> The service is delivered by 4 part-time (1.0 fte) staff and provides secondary schools with a minimum counselling service of 3 hours per week during the school year. Some schools choose to extend the service by purchasing extra counselling hours with their own resources. The proposal is to move to a service that is fully charged to the schools that choose to use it. If insufficient schools choose to buy in then the service may need to cease.	23	23	23
<u>SP13 - Training Budget Cut (LCMDS10)</u> Reduce the Youth Service training budget by 12%	7	7	7
<u>RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</u>			
<u>Access Services</u>			
<u>SP14 - SEN Transport Schools Budget DSG Charge (LCMS9)</u> There is provision within the School Budget regulations to charge some SEN Transport costs to the Schools Budget and hence fund from the DSG rather than General Fund. To do this we need to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Schools Forum that there is an overall saving within the Schools Budget from the way we are managing SEN provision and transport. Since 2005/06 there has been an overall underlying reduction in the number of children requiring education related Out of City Placements of 7. The net saving to the Schools Budget of this is estimated at £301k pa. However, over this period SEN transport costs within the city have increased by £150k over and above inflation and as a result of educating more pupils in York special schools who require day to day transport. The Schools Forum have already agreed a £50k charge to the Schools Budget in 2007/08 so this saving proposes asking them to agree an increase of £100k to £150k p.a.	100	100	100
<u>SP15 - Access Officer Staffing Savings (LCMDS15)</u> There is currently a 0.3 fte vacant post in the team (total size 5.7 ftes) which could be left unfilled.	6	6	6
<u>SP16 - External Consultancy Budget Deletion (LCMDS16)</u> This saving would remove the budget for commissioning external consultancy. Items funded through this currently include developing the anti-bullying survey in schools and the mediation service offered by 'face 2 face'.	6	6	6
<u>SP17 - Printing Budget Reduction (LCLDS10)</u> A saving on printing costs due to reduction in volume as a result of the centralisation of student support functions to the central processing unit at Darlington.	2	2	2
<u>SP18 - Conference Expenses Budget Deletion (LCMDS14)</u> Remove the budget that enables staff to attend regional conferences and training events.	2	2	2

	Net Saving		
	2008/09 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000
Finance			
<u>SP19 - Interest On School Negative Cash Balances (LCLS5)</u> The full year effect of additional interest generated on council cash balances from changes to the way in which we transfer cash resources to schools through the Bank Accounts for Schools (BAfS) scheme. The previous scheme (inherited from NYCC in 1996) worked in the favour of schools by allowing them to build up cash balances significantly in excess of their LMS funding levels or reserves.	25	25	25
<u>SP20 - School Fire Insurance Fund Contribution (LCLS6)</u> The insurance premium excess for fires in schools is £600k. Based on the current claims history the provision for this excess can be maintained satisfactorily despite this reduction in the current annual contribution.	10	10	10
Human Resources			
<u>SP21 - Trade Union Duties - 5% Cut (LCMDS11)</u> A reduction of 5% in the Teachers Panel budget .	3	3	3
<u>SP22 - Teacher Line Contribution - Cease (LCLDS9)</u> This saving would cease the CYC contribution to the national helpline for teachers called 'Teacher Line'. All authorities are asked to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of running this national service. This is unlikely to impact on staff directly as York teachers should still be able to access the service..	1	1	1
Management Information Service			
<u>SP23 - MIS Post Reduction to Term Time Only (LCMDS12)</u> Reduce one post out of a total of 10 ftes to term time only working.	3	3	3
<u>SP24 - External Consultancy Budget Reduction (LCMDS13)</u> MIS has a budget of £6,300 to spend on external consultancy, this would be reduced by £2,000. The budget is used to buy consultancy and training for the pupil database and to produce analysis/data tools for schools by an external consultant.	2	2	2
Planning & Resources			
<u>SP25 - Planning Officers Salary Recharge To Capital (LCMS8)</u> An increased recharge of Planning Officers' time to the Children's Services Capital Programme. This is achievable due to the increased size of the programme over the following three years, mainly attributable to the One-School Pathfinder and York High School schemes.	25	25	25
<u>SP26 - Office Moves Budget Deletion (LCLS7)</u> Delete the full budget which is available to fund office moves across the directorate. Any future moves would need to be self-financing.	15	15	15
Strategic Management			
<u>SP27 - Increase Directorate Staff Vacancy Factor by 0.5%</u> The current assumed vacancy factor within staffing budgets is 1.5% on all non-front line services. The increase to 2% may put some additional pressure on staff and needs to be carefully managed across the directorate but is believed to be achievable.	48	48	48
<u>SP28 - Dedicated Schools Grant Overhead Allocation</u> A one-off saving was taken in 2007/08 which, at that time, could not be guaranteed on an on-going basis. Although a full analysis of all the implications of the Schools Budget settlement has yet to be completed it should be possible to retain this saving in to 2008/09 and beyond.	50	50	50

	Net Saving		
	2008/09 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT & STAFF DEVELOPMENT			
<u>Educational Development Service</u>			
<u>SP29 - School Development Grant Reprioritisation (LCLS8)</u> Reduce spending in areas of service currently funded by the retained part of School Development Grant to enable this grant to support other services as the scope of the retained grant has been widened. It is proposed that £23k be cut from Study Support and £10k from School Support Staff Training. The main impact of this will be felt in schools.	33	33	33
<u>School Governance Service</u>			
<u>SP30 - Governor Training - Delete Sessions (LCHDS6)</u> Reduce the number of training sessions for governors delivered by external consultants.	2	2	2
Recurring Savings Total	480	480	480
One-off Savings Total	0	0	0

Children's Services - DSG Savings Proposals - 2008/09

	Net Saving		
	2008/09 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000
CHILDREN & FAMILIES			
Special Educational Needs Service			
<u>SP31 - Inter Authority Recoupment (LCLS2)</u> Changes to the way in which charges for Inter Authority Recoupment can be calculated mean that a greater level of overheads can now be included in the charge for each pupil. As York is currently a net provider of places in maintained special schools this has resulted in a net underspend on the overall recoupment budget in recent years. Looking at forward projections it is felt that a prudent budget reduction of £91k can be made for 2008/09 whilst still leaving some provision for unexpected events.	91	91	91
<u>SP32 - Out Of City Placements (LCLS3)</u> As part of the policy to reduce dependence on external placements we have been able to reduce the numbers of pupils involved. The budget has now underspent in each of the last 3 years. Looking at forward projections it is felt that a prudent budget reduction of £90k can be made for 2008/09 whilst still leaving some provision for unexpected placements.	90	90	90
PARTNERSHIPS & EARLY INTERVENTION			
Early Years & Extended Schools			
<u>SP33 - Children's Information Service Staffing Reduction (LCLDS8)</u> A saving that reflects a recent restructure of the Children's Information Service that has already resulted in a net reduction in staff hours for the team.	5	5	5
<u>SP34 - Policy & Planning Budget Reduction (LCLDS7)</u> Savings to be achieved through a combination of reductions in conferences attended, grants to Shared Foundation Partnerships, grants to day nurseries towards their NDNA membership fees, printing and advertising.	4	4	4
<u>SP35 - Childminding Service Grants (LCMDS9)</u> A reduction in the amount allocated for supporting new starters in childminding.	1	1	1
<u>SP36 - Team Away Days (LCLDS6)</u> Reduce the team away days by two.	1	1	1
<u>SP37 - Business Support Team Training (LCLDS5)</u> Reduce the budget currently set aside for funding training and development opportunities for the team.	1	1	1
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT & STAFF DEVELOPMENT			
Multi-Cultural Service			
<u>SP38 - Management Restructure (LCMS10)</u> Merge the management of Travellers' and English as an Additional Language services from two separate teams into one via the deletion of one of the two team manager posts. Some of the saving will be reinvested by creating additional teaching assistant time and administrative support.	14	24	24
Recurring Savings Total	207	217	217
One-off Savings Total	0	0	0

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO - FEES AND CHARGES 2008/09

		CURRENT CHARGE 2007/08	PLUS 5% INCREASE	PROPOSED CHARGE 2008/09	PROPOSED PERCENTAGE INCREASE
<u>YOUTH SERVICE</u>		£	£	£	%
HIRE OF YOUTH CENTRE					
	Hourly Charge				
	Youth Groups with similar aims to Youth Service	2.30	2.42	2.40	4.35%
	Other Voluntary and Community Groups	4.50	4.73	4.70	4.44%
	Private Bookings	9.00	9.45	9.50	5.56%
ZOO SKATE PARK					
	Per Session	1.55	1.63	1.65	6.45%

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Children's Services - General Fund Savings for Consultation - 2008/09

	Net Saving		
	2008/09 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000
CHILDREN & FAMILIES			
Children's Social Services			
<u>SC01 - Social Worker Staff Reduction (LCHS2)</u> Social Work Service, responsible for Initial and Core assessments of children in need and at risk, undertaking S47 enquiries, responsibly as key workers for children looked after and / or subject to a child protection plan. The proposal is to delete a 0.5 fte post from each of 3 teams in the service (total staffing establishment is 20 fte posts)	47	47	47
<u>SC02 - Family Group Conference - Delete Service (LCMS3)</u> Family Group Conferencing is a method of working with families that has been promoted within children's social work for a number of years, fully evaluated and recommended nationally to support children's placement within their families. This saving would cease the service with the loss of one fte post.	31	31	31
<u>SC03 - CAMHS Social Worker - Delete Post (LCHS6)</u> The post undertakes social work tasks with children and young people who attend the out-patient and in-patient unit at Limetrees. The post dedicates time to the specialist CAMHS LAC team and is funded by CYC and the PCT: (60% / 40%).	22	22	22
<u>SC04 - Children In Need - Cease Contribution to Youth Service (LCHS4)</u> An intensive support service commissioned from the Youth Service to try to prevent the admission to care of children in crisis and on the cusp of admission. To undertake direct, intensive work with 10-16 year olds in urgent situations where Family Support intervention has not been sufficient to prevent crisis. This saving would cease the service.	21	21	21
<u>SC05 - NSPCC Partnership Secondment - Cease (LCMS1)</u> A 0.5 fte social work post seconded to the NSPCC Domestic Abuse Project but paid for by CYC (also PCT secondment). The current SLA ends in March 2008. The service provides direct therapeutic and preventative work to child victims of domestic abuse and their non abusing carers.	17	17	17
Education Welfare Service			
<u>SC06 - Welfare Officer - Delete Post (LCHS8)</u> Delete a 0.5 fte Welfare Officer post out of a team of 9.0 ftes, supporting schools and parents to encourage and increase attendance.	15	15	15
LIFELONG LEARNING & CULTURE			
Adult & Community Education			
<u>SC07 - Burton Stone Lane Flexible Learning Centre Closure (LCMDS5)</u> This is one of five flexible learning centres across the city. Whilst it is located within one of the most deprived areas in the city it has not been as successful as some of the other centres in attracting students. Given that any budget saving must not adversely effect student numbers, this is the area where it would have least effect. It is likely to effect about 40 learners.	2	4	4
Arts & Culture			
<u>SC08 - Performing Arts Centres (LCHS18)</u> This cut would close 3 centres: Canon Lee, Millthorpe and Archbishop Holgate's Schools with additional extended provision at York High (Lowfield site) which provides 450+ young people and 60+ young adults with weekly music and performing arts sessions.	51	88	88

	Net Saving		
	2008/09 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT & STAFF DEVELOPMENT			
<u>Educational Development Service</u>			
<u>SC09 - EDS Advisor or Consultant Post Deletion (LCHS21)</u>			
Deletion of one fte post in EDS. This would result in a reduction in the amount of support given to schools. Lessening of support and leadership development opportunities for headteachers. Possible impact on schools' results and performance.	26	45	45
Recurring Savings Total	232	290	290
One-off Savings Total	0	0	0

Capital Budget - 2007/08 to 2010/11(monitor 2)

	2007/08 Revised Budget £000	2008/09 Revised Budget £000	2009/10 Revised Budget £000	2010/11 Revised Budget £000	Gross Capital Programme To be Funded £000	
<u>Gross Expenditure by Department</u>						
Children's Services	40,740	17,239	40,397	2,412	0	100,025
City Strategy (P&T)	19,588	9,535	6,990	6,113	5,552	47,778
City Strategy (Econ Devt)	4	259	0	0	0	263
Housing	19,807	9,453	8,449	8,927	9,343	55,979
Leisure & Heritage	3,754	2,951	6,943	2,063	200	15,911
Neighbourhood Services	1,795	694	452	0	0	2,941
Resources	6,559	6,062	16,004	17,516	3,113	49,254
Social Services	1,371	646	205	205	205	2,632
Total by Department	93,618	46,839	79,440	37,236	18,413	274,783
<u>Total External Funds by Department</u>						
Children's Services	38,239	15,277	34,594	2,412	0	90,522
City Strategy (P&T)	9,977	7,815	5,903	5,276	4,965	33,936
City Strategy (Econ Devt)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Housing	17,859	9,253	8,449	8,927	9,343	53,831
Leisure & Heritage	2,136	811	1,629	0	0	4,576
Neighbourhood Services	1,135	361	0	0	0	1,496
Resources	3,652	2,553	6,660	17,138	1,918	31,921
Social Services	323	405	0	0	0	728
Total External Funds by Department	73,321	36,475	57,235	33,753	16,226	217,010
<u>Total CYC Funding required by Department</u>						
Children's Services	2,501	1,962	5,803	0	0	9,503
City Strategy (P&T)	9,611	1,720	1,087	837	587	13,842
City Strategy (Econ Devt)	4	259	0	0	0	263
Housing	1,948	200	0	0	0	2,148
Leisure & Heritage	1,618	2,140	5,314	2,063	200	11,335
Neighbourhood Services	660	333	452	0	0	1,445
Resources	2,907	3,509	9,344	378	1,195	17,333
Social Services	1,048	241	205	205	205	1,904
Total Capital Receipt Funding required	20,297	10,364	22,205	3,483	2,187	57,773

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Ref	Scheme Name	Gross Costs			CYC Costs		
		2008/09 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000	2008/09 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000
LCCS7	NDS Modernisation	1,685 ⁽⁻³¹⁵⁾	1,893 ^(+1,893)	1,893 ^(+1,893)	0	0	0
LCCS1	Schools Access Initiative	288	288	288	0	0	0
LCCS2	Harnessing Technology	535	523	528	0	0	0
LCCS3	Targeted Capital Fund 14-19 Diploma	0	2,000	6,000	0	0	0
LCCS4	Primary School Strategic Programme	0	3,000	5,378	0	0	0
LCCS5	Extended Schools	250	265	137	0	0	0
LCCS6	Devolved Formula Capital	2,948	2,898	2,898	0	0	0

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STANDARD CHARGES FOR RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES

102%

Type of Service		Current Weekly Charge 2007/2008 £	Proposed Weekly Charge 2008/2009 £
I. Residential Homes			
	Residential Homes for Children with Learning Disabilities (The Glen)	2,602.04	2,661.89
	Residential Home for Children (19 Wenlock Terrace)	2,592.89	2,652.53

FOSTER CARE ALLOWANCES
PAYABLE FROM 6TH APRIL 2008

Age	Current Weekly Allowance 2007-08 £	Proposed Weekly Allowance 2008-09 £
0-4	£102.06	£105.00
5-10	£113.05	£116.06
11-15	£129.01	£133.00
16-17	£159.11	£162.75

102%

15.00 Daily Rate

16.58 Daily Rate

19.00 Daily Rate

23.25 Daily Rate

Skills Premium

Skill Level	Current Weekly Allowance 2007-08 £	Proposed Weekly Allowance 2008-09 £
2	28.17	28.82
3	56.34	57.63
4	112.68	115.26
Teenagers with emotional or behavioural difficulties/severely disabled children (Specific scheme)	324.87	332.36

38.42 Base Rate

ADDITIONAL FOSTER CARERS ALLOWANCES
PAYABLE FROM 6TH APRIL 2008

102%

	Current Weekly Allowance 2007-08 £	Proposed Weekly Allowance 2008-09 £	
Children attending Boarding School	50% of scale allowance during term time		
Children in hospital or otherwise unexpectedly absent	First four weeks - full scale allowance		
Children unemployed on DSS allowance	Approved weekly allowance less prevailing		
Children who are working	The foster parents of working children will have their allowance reduced by the amount the child contributes towards his/her keep. The amount being subject to negotiation between the foster parents, the child and the social worker		
School Clothing Grants:			
Primary School	Up to 87.41	Up to 89.42	89.42
Secondary School	Up to 183.52	Up to 187.74	187.74
On Starting Employment Grant	Up to 369.16	Up to 377.65	377.65
Christmas and Birthday Allowance	1 x weekly rate		
Holiday Allowance	Up to 3 x weekly rate		
Initial Clothing/Placement Allowance	Up to 5 x weekly rate		
Miscellaneous Allowance	Increase as other allowances by 2.3%		

ADOPTION ALLOWANCES
RESIDENCE ORDER ALLOWANCES
PAYABLE FROM 6TH APRIL 2008

Age	Current Weekly Allowance 2007-08 £	Proposed Weekly Allowance 2008-09 £
0-4	56.98	58.31
5-10	69.58	71.19
11-12	79.24	81.06
13-15	85.26	87.22
16+	113.89	116.48

102%

8.33 Daily Rate

10.17 Daily Rate

11.58 Daily Rate

12.46 Daily Rate

16.64 Daily Rate

SHARING CARE ALLOWANCES
SITTING SERVICE ALLOWANCES
PAYABLE FROM 6TH APRIL 2008

102%

Time Band	Standard Sharing Care Proposed Weekly Allowance 2007-08 £	Standard Sharing Care Proposed Weekly Allowance 2008-09 £	Allowance paid to carer of child with additional health needs (i.e. std allow. + 70% enhancement) Proposed Weekly Allowance 2008-09 £	Allowance paid to carer of child with more complex care needs (i.e. std allow. + 60% enhancement) Proposed Weekly Allowance 2008-09 £
0-4 hours	15.68	16.04	27.27 (i.e. 16.04 + 11.23)	25.66 (i.e. 16.04 + 9.62)
4-8 hours	23.45	23.99	40.78 (i.e. 23.99 + 16.79)	38.38 (i.e. 23.99 + 14.39)
8-12 hours	31.29	32.01	54.42 (i.e. 32.01 + 22.41)	51.22 (i.e. 32.01 + 19.21)
12-24 hours	46.90	47.98	81.57 (i.e. 47.98 + 33.59)	76.77 (i.e. 47.98 + 28.79)

	70%	60%
	27.27	25.66
16.04	11.23	16.04
40.78		38.38
23.99	16.79	23.99
54.42		51.22
32.01	22.41	32.01
81.57		76.77
47.98	33.59	47.98
		28.79

SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP ALLOWANCES
PAYABLE FROM 6TH APRIL 2008

Age	Current Weekly Allowance 2007-08 £	Proposed Weekly Allowance 2008-09 £
0-4	£102.06	£105.00
5-10	£113.05	£116.06
11-15	£129.01	£133.00
16-17	£159.11	£162.75

102%

15.00 Daily Rate

16.58 Daily Rate

19.00 Daily Rate

23.25 Daily Rate

Note: An amount equivalent to the Child Benefit entitlement will be deducted from this allowance.

<u>DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT SETTLEMENT HEADLINES 2008-11</u>			
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
	£000	£000	£000
Breakdown of York's DSG			
Previous Years Base	83,409	86,527	89,030
Impact of Change in Pupil Numbers	(1,037)	(612)	311
Per Pupil Increase (all LAs) 3.1% / 2.9% / 2.9%	2,452	2,492	2,592
Ministerial Top Ups:			
Personalised Learning	1,009	623	1,145
Funding 6th Day of Exclusion	21		
Pockets of Deprivation	673		
Total DSG Cash Figure for York	86,527	89,030	93,078
York DSG - cash increase	3,118	2,503	4,048
York DSG - percentage increase	3.7%	2.9%	4.5%
Average National Percentage Increase	4.1%	3.3%	4.1%
Assumed pupil number changes	(287)	(161)	79
Per Pupil Funding Comparisons			
York Per Pupil - cash	£ 3,801	£ 3,939	£ 4,103
York Per Pupil - increase	£ 187	£ 138	£ 165
York Per Pupil - percentage increase	5.2%	3.6%	4.2%
National Per Pupil Funding:			
Minimum	£ 3,596	£ 3,728	£ 3,888
Maximum	£ 7,362	£ 7,603	£ 7,871
Average	£ 4,066	£ 4,218	£ 4,398
York Variation from the average	-£ 265	-£ 279	-£ 295
York as a percentage of the average	93.5%	93.4%	93.3%
National Per Pupil Funding Cash Increases			
Minimum	£ 156	£ 132	£ 160
Maximum	£ 272	£ 241	£ 271
Average	£ 178	£ 152	£ 180
National Per Pupil Funding Percentage Increases			
Minimum	3.8%	3.3%	3.5%
Maximum	5.6%	4.5%	4.9%
Average	4.6%	3.7%	4.3%

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Executive Members for Children's Services and Advisory Panel**21 January 2008**

Report of the Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services

CHANGES TO THE SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA**Summary**

- 1 This report recommends changes to some factors within the Local Management of Schools (LMS) Funding Formula prior to April 2008. The report sets out the responses received from schools during the recent consultation exercise and the resulting recommendations of the Schools Forum.

Background

- 2 Members will be aware that 2007/08 is the second and final year of the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) first multi-year budget period. During each multi-year period no changes to the LMS Funding Formula are allowed except in very exceptional circumstances. The next multi-year period will cover the three financial years 2008/09, 2009/10 & 2010/11. This means that if any changes to the formula are to be introduced at any time up until 31 March 2011 then they will need to be agreed and published before the 31 March 2008.
- 3 In order to meet this deadline, options for formula change have been considered by the Schools Forum during 2007. Any revisions will be included in the three year funding allocations issued to schools early in 2008.
- 4 During its deliberations the forum were conscious of the fact that the whole York funding formula had undergone a fundamental review during 2004 with a completely new formula introduced in April 2005. In light of this the forum endorsed the view that the underlying principles behind the current formula should not be revisited. Only those factors where there was either a statutory/regulatory requirement or very strong evidence of the need to re-examine specific items would be subject to review.
- 5 Therefore during the past 12 months the Schools Forum has considered a series of reports analysing proposals for formula review and covering the following formula factors:
 - Deprivation funding, comprising:
 - Additional Educational Needs
 - Non-statemented Special Educational Needs (SEN)
 - Statemented SEN
 - Personalised Learning
 - Social Inclusion (Former Standards Fund devolved allocation)
 - Infant Class Size (ICS) Funding
 - Special School and Enhanced Resource Centre (ERC) funding

- Small Secondary School Factor
- School Improvement (Former Standards Fund devolved allocation)
- Newly Qualified Teachers (Former Standards Fund devolved allocation)

6 The final report, following a full consultation exercise with all schools, was discussed by the forum on 5 December 2007. This report is attached in full as an annex and sets out officers' views and recommendations for formula change which the forum were asked to agree and full detailed background information.

Schools Forum's Views and Comments

7 The forum were happy to support all of the recommendations for formula change and made the following additional comments:

Question 1 – details of the make up of the primary and secondary Age Weighted Pupil Units (AWPUs) be provided for all schools when the 2008-11 resource allocation statements are published.

Question 7 – that option a at paragraph 27 of the report to the forum be agreed to allocate primary personalisation funding on the same basis as the existing secondary allocations.

Consultation

8 An extensive consultation exercise has been undertaken with a series of reports presented to the Schools Forum and a full consultation with all schools during the 2007 autumn term. The consultation document and school responses are included in the Schools Forum report attached as an annex.

Options

9 Members of EMAP are asked whether they wish to endorse the views of the Schools Forum and/or make comments on the proposed formula changes.

Analysis

10 All the analysis is provided in the body of the report and the annex.

Corporate Priorities

11 The proposed changes to the funding formula will help contribute towards the following corporate priorities:

- Increase people's skills and knowledge to improve future employment prospects.
- Improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and families in the city.

Financial Implications

12 All of the proposals will be funded from within the existing Individual Schools Budget, except for a sum of £100k to support the changes to the Special School & Enhanced Resource Centre factors. This will be funded from savings already being generated within the centrally held SEN Recoupment budget.

- 13 For individual schools, the retention of the existing ceilings and floors mechanism within the formula will continue to smooth the transition to revised funding levels. For 2008-11 the DCSF have set the school level Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) at 2.1% per pupil. This means that no school will see a reduction in funding (on a per pupil basis) as a result of the proposed changes.

Other Implications

- Human Resources - none.
- Equalities - none.
- Legal - none.
- Crime and Disorder - none.
- Information Technology - none.
- Property - none.

Risk Management

- 14 There are no known risks associated with approving the recommendations contained in this report.

Recommendations

- 15 The Executive Member is recommended to agree the following in relation to the LMS Funding Formula for implementation from April 2008:
- a) That the current balance of primary to secondary funding (on a per pupil basis) be maintained throughout the 3-year budget period 2008-11. The only exceptions to this would be additional national allocations specifically targeted at a particular sector, or new delegations that are already being allocated to a specific sector or group of schools outside of the formula funding. Within these parameters it is further recommended that any above inflation headroom available within the primary sector be allocated in the first instance to the Reception AWPU, with the aim of lowering the assumed ratio of pupil to teachers to 1 teacher and 1 teaching assistant for every 26 pupils over a period of time.
 - b) To transfer School Improvement funding in to the LMS Funding Formula on the following basis:
 - nursery, primary, secondary and special school lumps sums are increased by £3,356 plus any normal inflationary increase.
 - reception, key stage 1,2,3 and 4 AWPU's are each increased by £10.41 plus any normal inflationary increase.
 - nursery unit factors (based on multiples of 13 part-time places) are each increased by £67.67 (i.e. £10.41 x 13/2) plus any normal inflationary increase.
 - special school place values are each increased by £20.82 plus any normal inflationary increase (and then subject to any further changes that are agreed as part of the review of special school funding).
 - c) To transfer Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT) funding in to the LMS Funding Formula with an additional LMS Funding Formula factor being established for NQTs at a rate of £700 per NQT per term, plus the standard teachers pay inflationary uplift applied

to all other elements of the funding formula. Payment will be made on actual basis termly in arrears.

- d) Redistributing per pupil and lump sum funding within the AEN, Non-statemented and Statemented SEN factors on the following basis:
- a 10% redistribution of per pupil and lump sum funding in to the Free School Meal (FSM) deprivation indicator
 - a 10% redistribution of per pupil and lump sum funding in to the Low Prior Attainment indicators
 - establishing separate SEN Contingencies for the primary and secondary sectors of £50k each, to be allocated annually by the Schools Forum
 - including Looked After Children (LAC) as an additional indicator within the AEN factor
- e) That no further changes be made to the secondary personalisation factor for the period 2008-11.
- f) That the primary personalisation factor should be changed so that funding is allocated on the same basis as the existing secondary allocations, i.e.:
- 15% based on pupil numbers
 - 15% based a lump sum for each school
 - 50% based on low prior attainment
 - 20% based on high prior attainment
- g) That further research be undertaken before any move to using the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) measure is considered again. The IMD indicator will not be used within the funding formula during the 2008-11 budget period.
- h) Secondary Social Inclusion funding be merged into the Non-Statemented SEN factor.
- i) Prior attainment data within the Statemented SEN factor should be presented on the basis of absolute numbers of pupils rather than percentages.
- j) That the current formula for Infant Class Size (ICS) funding be retained for the 2008-11 funding period.
- k) That a Small Secondary School factor should be introduced as set out at paragraphs 74 & 75 of the consultation document.
- l) The introduction of an age weighted element to the Special School and Enhanced Resource Centre formula funded by reductions in the place values and a redirection of £100k from the centrally held SEN Recoupment budget. (see paragraphs 88 – 92 of the consultation document).
- m) That the existing ceilings and floors mechanism should continue to be used to smooth the transition to revised funding levels for individual schools.

Reason: To ensure that the LMS Funding Formula is reviewed and updated prior to being fixed for the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2011.

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	Report Approved	√	Date 8 January 2008
For further information please contact the author of the report			

Annex A Schools Forum Report 5 December 2007 - LMS Formula Reviews For April 2008 – Outcome Of Consultation With Schools (Including Consultation Document issued to all schools)

Appendix 1 Consultation on Changes Proposed by the Schools Forum to Factors Within the Local Funding Formula for Schools

Appendix 2

Background Papers

York LMS Funding Formula 2006/07 to 2007/08

Schools Forum Report 21 February 2007 - LMS Formula Reviews For April 2008

Schools Forum Report 26 April 2007 - LMS Formula Reviews Update

Schools Forum Report 5 July 2007 - LMS Formula – Review Of Deprivation Factors

Schools Forum Report 5 July 2007 - LMS Formula Reviews For April 2008

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Annex A



Agenda Item

Schools Forum

05 December 2007

Report of the Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services

LMS FORMULA REVIEWS FOR APRIL 2008 – OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION WITH SCHOOLS

Summary

- 1 This report summarises proposals to change some factors within the Local Management of Schools (LMS) Funding Formula prior to April 2008. The report considers the responses received from schools during the recent consultation period and where appropriate suggests revisions to the original proposals in light of these responses for the forum to consider.

Background

- 2 The forum considered a report at its meeting of 21 February setting out a number of proposals for formula review and agreed to review or consider introducing the following factors.
 - Deprivation funding, comprising:
 - Additional Educational Needs
 - Non-statemented Special Educational Needs (SEN)
 - Statemented SEN
 - Personalised Learning
 - Social Inclusion (Former Standards Fund devolved allocation)
 - Infant Class Size (ICS) Funding
 - Special School and Enhanced Resource Centre (ERC) funding
 - Small Secondary School Factor
 - School Improvement (Former Standards Fund devolved allocation)
 - Newly Qualified Teachers (Former Standards Fund devolved allocation)
- 3 Further reports were considered on 26 April and 5 July that informed the forum's proposals that were then put out to consultation with all schools at the start of the autumn term. The consultation document is attached at Appendix 1.
- 4 Subject to the forum's agreement any revisions to the formula will be included in the three year funding allocations to be issued to schools early in 2008.

Response to the Consultation Questions

- 5 In response to the consultation document 41 written replies were received from schools, a response rate of 61%. This compares to a response rate of 54% for the fundamental review of the formula undertaken in 2004. A return was also received from the Governors' Viewpoint Group. As well as answering the specific questions raised, many schools made a number of additional comments. The key concerns and questions raised by schools are considered within this report. A full analysis of the responses by sector is shown at Appendix 2.

Question 1

Do you agree that the current 2007/08 funding proportions (shown in Annex 2 of the consultation document) represent a satisfactory balance of per pupil funding between mainstream primary and secondary schools?

- 6 All secondary schools who responded to the consultation believe the balance of funding is now about right. However, the majority (69%) of primary schools who responded feel that further resources need to be transferred to the primary sector from secondary schools. The main issues cited for this further transfer of resources are the impact of Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) time and the need to reduce the pupil / teacher ratios in reception classes.
- 7 The impact of PPA time was dealt with at the time of the last formula review and is now fully funded within the class teacher element of the Age Weighted Pupil Units (AWPUs) at each key stage. At that time the recognition of PPA costs in the formula resulted in a reduction in the level of Key Stage (KS) 3 & 4 AWPUs and increases in KS1 & 2 AWPUs. There is therefore no justification for any further allocation of resources for PPA.
- 8 For Reception classes the current AWPU allows for one classroom teacher for every 25.7 fte pupils and one classroom assistant for every 60 fte pupils. This equates to an average of one adult for every 18.0 fte pupils. The Reception AWPU would need to be increased by £222 to fund the additional cost of moving to 1 adult for every 13 fte pupils (1 teacher and 1 teaching assistant for every 26 pupils), a total additional cost of £374k.
- 9 This is clearly an issue for a significant number of primary schools and needs to be recognised as such by the forum and the local authority. It is also clear that there is no overall consensus that would enable this aspiration to be funded by a transfer of resources from the secondary sector. In fact all the comparative evidence and data supports the view that the overall balance of funding between primary and secondary sectors is currently at the most appropriate level. Primary schools have also given a clear message that they don't wish to see additional funding allocated to the Reception AWPU by increasing the class size assumptions in the KS1 & 2 AWPUs.
- 10 It is therefore recommended that the current balance of primary to secondary funding (on a per pupil basis) be maintained throughout the 3 year budget period 2008-11. The only exceptions to this would be additional national allocations specifically targeted at a particular sector, or new delegations that are already being allocated to a specific sector or group of schools outside of the formula funding.
- 11 Within these parameters it is further recommended that any above inflation headroom available within the primary sector be allocated in the first instance to the Reception AWPU, with the aim of lowering the assumed ratio of pupil to teachers to 1 teacher and 1 teaching assistant for every 26 pupils. An assessment of how far this could be

progressed over the 2008-11 budget period will be made and presented to the forum as part of the full Schools Budget report in January.

Question 2

Do you agree to the proposal to transfer School Improvement funding in to the LMS Funding Formula from 2008/09 on the basis set out in paragraph 23 of the consultation document?

- 12 The vast majority of schools support the proposal. Some questions were raised about the way the new factor will be inflated and ensuring some transparency so that schools can identify the transferred amounts within their 2008/09 allocations.
- 13 It is therefore recommended that the transfers be made at 2007/08 values and then added to the existing relevant 2007/08 formula values. The new combined value (at 2007/08 prices) will then be increased by the relevant inflation factors over the 2008-11 budget period. In 2008/09 a memorandum note will be added to each school's Resource Allocation Statement identifying the transferred amounts.

Question 3

Do you agree to the proposal to transfer Newly Qualified Teacher funding in to the LMS Funding Formula from 2008/09 on the basis set out in paragraph 25 of the consultation document?

- 14 The vast majority of schools support the proposal. Questions were raised about the way the new factor will be inflated and the fact that the termly allocation of £700 does not match the costs incurred by schools.
- 15 The current figure of £700 reflects the level of the existing budget available outside of the funding formula. The forum will recall that NQT funding was originally allocated by the DCSF as a Standards Fund grant. The DCSF withdrew this grant in 2003/04 and the local authority provided additional funding from its own (non schools) resources to replace the DCSF grant. Unfortunately it was not possible to replace the grant in full hence the reason the current termly allocation falls short of actual costs.
- 16 It is therefore recommended that the transfer be made at the current 2007/08 value and then be increased by the relevant inflation factors over the 2008-11 budget period.

Question 4

Do you agree to the proposals for redistributing per pupil and lump sum funding within the AEN, Non-statemented and Statemented SEN factors as set out at paragraph 36 of the consultation document?

- 17 The vast majority of schools support the proposal. It is therefore recommended that the changes be implemented for the 2008-11 budget period. Officers have considered the issue of the size of the contingency fund and would recommend that the maximum levels set out in the consultation of £50k are retained for each sector.
- 18 Some schools highlighted that the criteria for schools to access the contingency fund should be transparent. Officers agree that this should be the case and will ensure that the criteria are communicated to schools before the start of the 2008/09 financial year.

- 19 In their comments a number of schools, who chose not to support the proposal, have put forward some further suggestions and ideas for amendments to the SEN factors within the funding formula. Although it has not been possible to examine these in detail for this review, it is recommended that officers investigate the advantages and disadvantages of these suggestions and report back to the forum prior to the start of the 2011-14 budget period.

Question 5

Who should make decisions on the allocation of the SEN Contingency:

- a. *Local Authority officers?*
 - b. *A panel of headteachers, supported by officers?*
 - c. *The Schools Forum?*
- 20 There was no strong consensus of opinion to this question. In lieu of any strong opinion either way, officers would recommend that for 2008/09 the Schools Forum should make decisions on the allocation of the contingency. The appropriateness of this could then be reviewed in light of this experience.

Question 6

Do you agree that no further changes should be made to the secondary personalisation factor?

- 21 The vast majority of schools support the proposal. Of those that don't there seems to be an equal split between those suggesting an increase in the targeting to low attainment and those suggesting a reduction.
- 22 It is therefore recommended that no further changes be made to the secondary personalisation factor for the period 2008-11.

Question 7

Do you agree that the primary personalisation factor should be changed to allocate funding on the following basis?

- 15% based on pupil numbers*
- 15% based a lump sum for each school*
- 50% based on low attainment*
- 20% based on high attainment*

- 23 Of the primary schools that responded to the consultation, 38% are in favour of the proposal with 56% not in favour. Of those that are not in favour the main issue appears to be the weighting suggested between low and high attainment in the proposal, rather than any strong view that the existing pure per pupil allocation should be retained.
- 24 A number of schools have suggested in their comments that the low attainment / high attainment proportions should be equal at 35% each rather than the proposed 50% / 20%. It seems from the responses and the comments that the forum needs to decide whether to stick with the proposed percentages or increase the high attainment percentage (possibly up to 35%) at the expense of the low attainment percentage.
- 25 The forum is reminded that one of the drivers for change here is the requirement from the DCSF that all authorities review how they allocate funding for deprivation within their local

formulae. The DCSF are closely monitoring authorities' progress in this area and have clearly indicated that they will intervene where they consider progress is not adequate.

- 26 The proposals put forward for consultation were the minimum that officers considered would be acceptable to demonstrate satisfactory progress in targeting funding allocated nationally for deprivation under local deprivation factors. Any move to allocate less than 50% of the personalisation funding under a deprivation indicator could leave the authority vulnerable to challenge.
- 27 In light of this the forum is asked to consider the following options for allocating primary personalisation between low and high attainment:
- Low 50% / High 20% - as per the consultation document
 - Low 35% / High 35% - as suggested by a number of schools in response to the consultation
 - A staged approach, starting at 35%/35% in 2008/09, 42.5%/27.5% in 2009/10 and finishing at 50%/20% in 2010/11.

Question 8

Do you agree that any move to using the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) as a deprivation measure should be delayed until at least April 2011 to allow further research to be undertaken?

- 28 The vast majority of schools support the proposal. It is therefore recommended that further research be undertaken before any move to using the IMD measure is considered again. The IMD indicator will not be used within the funding formula during the 2008-11 budget period.

Question 9

Do you agree that Secondary Social Inclusion funding should be merged into the Non-Statemented SEN factor?

- 29 The vast majority of schools support the proposal. It is therefore recommended that the changes be implemented for the 2008-11 budget period.

Question 10

Do you agree to presenting prior attainment data within the Statemented SEN factor on the basis of absolute numbers of pupils rather than percentages?

- 30 The vast majority of schools support the proposal. It is therefore recommended that the changes be implemented for the 2008-11 budget period.

Question 11

Which of the 3 options for Infant Class Size funding set out at paragraphs 66-69 of the consultation document do you support?

- Retain the current factor?
 - Reallocate all funding to the infant age AWPUs?
 - £50k ICS contingency with balance to the infant age AWPUs?
- 31 There was no consensus of opinion from primary schools in response to this question, although only a small number of schools (12%) were in favour of establishing an ICS

contingency fund. An equal number of primary schools were in favour of options a and b, with 42% in favour of each.

- 32 As there is no overwhelming support for a change it is therefore recommended that the current formula for ICS funding be retained for the 2008-11 funding period.

Question 12

If option 3 were to be implemented, who should make decisions on the allocation of the ICS Contingency:

- a. *Local Authority officers?*
 - b. *A panel of headteachers, supported by officers?*
 - c. *The Schools Forum?*
- 33 Not now relevant as there was no real support for the introduction of an ICS contingency fund in response to question 11.

Question 13

Do you agree that a Small Secondary School factor should be introduced as set out at paragraph 74 & 75 of the consultation document?

- 34 A small majority of secondary schools support the proposal (57% compared to 43% against). There is some concern from some secondary schools about the impact on their budgets of redirecting existing resources into this factor. It is therefore recommended that the changes be implemented for the 2008-11 budget period as a short-term measure and its long-term inclusion within the funding formula be reviewed prior to the 2011-14 budget period.

Question 14

Do you agree to the introduction of an age weighted element to the Special School and Enhanced Resource Centre formula funded by reductions in the place values and a redirection of £100k from the centrally held SEN Recoupment budget. (see paragraphs 88 – 92 of the consultation document)?

- 35 The majority of schools support the proposal. It is therefore recommended that the changes be implemented for the 2008-11 budget period. Having reflected on the proposal though, officers feel that they could be presented in a slightly simpler way for the two special schools by allocating all of the age weighting element within the place values rather than through a separate special school AWPU. ERCs would still receive an AWPU for all of their ERC pupils as proposed. This would not alter the impact of the proposals as set out in the consultation document for any school but would aid understanding and transparency in this part of the formula.

Question 15

Do you agree that the existing ceilings and floors mechanism should continue to be used to smooth the transition to revised funding levels for individual schools?

- 36 There was overwhelming support for this proposal. It is therefore recommended that the existing ceilings and floors mechanism should continue to be used for the 2008-11 budget period.

School Comments and Queries

- 37 Appendix 2 lists all the comments and queries raised by schools during the consultation (*note - not included for EMAP report*). The majority that relate to specific consultation questions have been addressed in the paragraphs above. It is intended that others not directly related to the consultation questions are published in the LMS Formula Consultation section on Webstore along with a copy of this report to the forum.

Recommendations

- 38 The forum is asked to agree or consider the recommendations in response to each consultation question as set out in the paragraphs above.

Reason: To ensure the LMS Funding Formula is reviewed and updated prior to being fixed for the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2011.

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	Report Approved	√	Date 29 November 2007
For further information please contact the author of the report			

Appendix 1 – Formula Review Consultation Document Appendix 2 – School Responses to the Consultation Questions

Background Papers

York LMS Funding Formula 2006/07 to 2007/08

Schools Forum Report 21 February 2007 - LMS Formula Reviews For April 2008

Schools Forum Report 26 April 2007 - LMS Formula Reviews Update

Schools Forum Report 5 July 2007 - LMS Formula – Review Of Deprivation Factors

Schools Forum Report 5 July 2007 - LMS Formula Reviews For April 2008

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Consultation on Changes Proposed by the Schools Forum to Factors Within the Local Funding Formula for Schools

INTRODUCTION

- 1 This consultation seeks schools' responses on proposed changes to a number of factors within the Local Management of Schools (LMS) Allocation Formula. Two copies of the Consultation Document are being made available for each school, one for the Headteacher and the other being sent directly to the Chair of Governors.
- 2 The document sets out the recommendations of the Schools' Forum (the forum) with regard to its work in reviewing these elements of the LMS Formula along with some background information and the main rationale behind each of the proposed formula changes. Full copies of all of the reports considered by the forum including the detailed analysis of the options considered are also being made available and can be accessed on the **Webstore** website editorial.webstore-ed.net/. Once on the Webstore homepage:
 - *click* Webstore for Education, *then*
 - Learning City of York, *then*
 - Resource Management, *then*
 - Finance, *then*
 - LMS Formula Reviews for April 2008
- 3 Please read through the document and consider the response page at Annex 11. Your response must to be returned by the **9 November 2007** at the latest. **Only one response will be accepted from each school.**
- 4 If you wish to raise any queries or questions then please do not hesitate to contact:

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We also intend to publish a list of frequently asked questions, which will be updated throughout the consultation period, at the Webstore site referred to above.

BACKGROUND

- 5 Headteachers and governors will be aware that 2007/08 is the second and final year of the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF)¹ first multi-year budget period. During each multi-year period no changes to the LMS Funding Formula are allowed except in very exceptional circumstances. The next multi-year period will cover the three financial years 2008/09, 2009/10 & 2010/11. This means that if any changes to the formula are to be introduced at any time up until 31 March 2011 then they will need to be agreed and published before the 31 March 2008.

¹ References to the DCSF will also include the former Department for Education and Skills (DfES)

- 6 In order to meet this deadline options for formula change have been considered by the forum during 2007. This now allows time for consultation with all schools during the autumn term with any revisions included in the three year funding allocations issued to schools early in 2008.
- 7 The forum were also conscious of the fact that the whole York funding formula had undergone a fundamental review during 2004 with a completely new formula introduced in April 2005. In light of this the forum endorsed the view that the underlying principles behind the current formula should not be revisited. Only those factors where there was either a statutory/regulatory requirement or very strong evidence of the need to re-examine specific items would be subject to review.
- 8 Within these parameters, the following areas were agreed by the forum for formula review prior to April 2008.

Statutory/Regulatory Requirements

Former Standards Fund Grants

- 9 In 2003/04 (the year of the 'school funding crisis') the DCSF ceased to provide a number of standards fund allocations for schools. At that time the Local Authority (LA) replaced the DCSF funding from its own resources by increasing the Schools Budget by £0.8m above the government passport level. This additional council provided funding has now been locked in to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). It now appears that York was the only authority in the country that followed this course of action.
- 10 This means that in York, as well as receiving LMS formula and DCFS standards fund allocations, schools also receive a number of Local Authority standards fund allocations (totalling over £0.9m in 2007/08) under the following headings:
 - School Improvement
 - Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs)
 - Social Inclusion
- 11 The vast majority of this funding is allocated to schools on a formula basis but outside of the LMS Funding Formula. For DCSF reporting purposes it is therefore classified as Local Authority centrally retained expenditure. Under the current regulations it should score against the authority in calculating the Central Expenditure Limit (CEL), but we have agreed with the DCSF that for 2006/07 and 2007/08 we can exclude it from this calculation as it is all devolved to schools. In the discussions with the DCSF they have requested that we now transfer this funding into the Individual Schools Budget (ISB), and hence the funding formula, as they cannot guarantee allowing it to continue as an exception to the CEL from 2008/09.
- 12 This is a purely technical change. Current devolved funding and formulae will simply be moved in to the ISB or by adding them to existing factors such as Age Weighted Pupil Units (AWPUs). The forum did, however, agree that the Social Inclusion funding was then also included in the Deprivation Funding Review (see below).

Deprivation Funding

- 13 During 2006 the DCSF required all authorities to produce a Deprivation Funding Statement (York's statement was presented to the forum in June 2006 and is contained in the background documents that can be accessed at Webstore). Since then the DCSF has analysed and formally published all authorities' statements. Whilst recognising some good practice in these statements, the DCSF also concluded that there was a wide degree of variation between local authorities' strategies for assessing and funding the costs of deprivation. In many cases they felt there was no systematic approach to reviewing need or how to use funding to drive up the attainment of pupils from deprived backgrounds.
- 14 The DCFS has subsequently written to all authorities requiring them to undertake a full and systematic review of their local arrangements with a view to consulting on and introducing any revised formulae from April 2008. Each local authority and schools forum is required to consider the extent to which their own arrangements deliver resources to schools to cover the costs of deprivation in a way that best supports schools to close the gap in pupil outcomes.
- 15 For York this meant that the following funding formula factors were required to be included in the review of deprivation funding:
 - Additional Educational Needs (AEN)
 - Non Statemented Special Educational Needs (SEN)
 - Statemented SEN
 - Personalised Learning
 - Social Inclusion (former Standards Fund allocation)

Locally Driven Reviews

- 16 The forum also agreed that there was sufficient evidence or demand to initiate reviews in the following factors prior to fixing the formula up until 2011.
 - Infant Class Size Funding
 - Small Secondary School Factor
 - Special School and Enhanced Resource Allocation funding

Balance of Funding

- 17 In setting the broad principles for the reviews the forum considered benchmarking data setting out how the balance of funding between mainstream primary and secondary schools had changed since the fundamental formula review in 2004. In 2004 PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC), who were commissioned by the forum to analyse the previous formula, produced comparative data that showed that the differential in funding (between mainstream primary and secondary schools) on a per pupil basis was higher in York than in any other authority in York's Audit Commission/Ofsted family group. This is shown at Annex 1.
- 18 One of the key objectives of the new formula introduced in 2005 was to narrow this funding differential within the constraint of the total amount of available funding.

Annex 2 shows that the differential has closed significantly with both sectors now close to the family average in 2007/08 after the new formula has been in place for 3 years.

- 19 The forum were asked to consider whether this position now represented a satisfactory balance of per pupil funding between primary and secondary schools compared with York's family group of authorities. As a consequence, a principle of all of the proposals for formula change put forward for consideration is that they do not alter the current mainstream primary/secondary balance of funding on a per pupil basis. Only if additional resources are allocated nationally that are deemed to be specifically targeted at a particular age group would this principle be reviewed.

Question 1 – Do you agree that the current 2007/08 funding proportions (shown in Annex 2) represent a satisfactory balance of per pupil funding between mainstream primary and secondary schools?

FORMER STANDARDS FUND GRANTS

- 20 The forum is recommending that the former standards fund allocations and formulae for School Improvement and Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) be transferred into the ISB from 2008/09 (along with the Social Inclusion allocation that is now being considered under the deprivation review).
- 21 This is a purely technical change and will not alter the level of funding received by any school through these two funding streams. The forum is recommending that this transfer is handled in the following way within the LMS Funding Formula from 2008/09.

School Improvement

- 22 In 2007/08 a total of £490k has been allocated to schools on the following basis:
- a lump sum of £3,356 per school
 - an amount per mainstream pupil of £10.41
 - an amount per special school pupil of £20.82
- 23 The forum's recommendation is that from 2008/09 onwards the
- nursery, primary, secondary and special school lumps sums are increased by £3,356 over and above any normal inflationary increase.
 - reception, key stage 1,2,3 and 4 AWPU's are each increased by £10.41 over and above any normal inflationary increase.
 - nursery unit factors (based on multiples of 13 part-time places) are each increased by £67.67 (i.e. £10.41 x 13/2) over and above any normal inflationary increase.
 - special school place values are each increased by £20.82 over and above any normal inflationary increase (and then subject to any further changes that may be made as part of the review of special school funding).

Question 2 – Do you agree to the proposal to transfer School Improvement funding in to the LMS Funding Formula from 2008/09 on the basis set out in paragraph 23?

Newly Qualified Teachers

- 24 In 2007/08 a total of £170k has been budgeted for at a payment rate of £700 per NQT per term.
- 25 The forum's recommendation is that an additional LMS Funding Formula factor is established from 2008/09 for NQTs at a rate of £700 per NQT per term plus the standard teachers pay inflationary uplift applied to all other elements of the funding formula. Schools would continue to access this funding in the same way as they currently do via an NQT Induction Assessment Form, which should be completed for each NQT by the headteacher for each assessment. Payment will be made on actual basis termly in arrears.

Question 3 – Do you agree to the proposal to transfer Newly Qualified Teacher funding in to the LMS Funding Formula from 2008/09 on the basis set out in paragraph 25?

DEPRIVATION FUNDING

- 26 It should be remembered that this review is one that has been imposed on the authority by the DCSF. It is also worth remembering that the whole York funding formula underwent a fundamental review for 2005/06. In light of this the forum agreed that the underlying principles behind the current York formula should not be revisited but that work should focus around the following areas:
- consideration of national comparative data setting out the attainment gap between pupils from deprived backgrounds and their peers
 - analyse York's existing formulae to identify the amounts currently allocated under the following categories:
 - deprivation, e.g. Free School Meals (FSM) or Additional Educational Needs (AEN) indicators
 - prior attainment, e.g. key stage results
 - whole school lump sums and pupil numbers
 - consider how much, if any, of the lump sum and pupil number funding should be retained
 - consider whether the current balance between deprivation and prior attainment should be altered e.g. by reallocating lump sum and pupil based funding
 - consider whether the current deprivation indicator of free school meal entitlement should be retained or whether other indicators such as the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) would offer a better alternative
 - any other minor amendments prior to the next fixed 3 year funding period
- 27 Furthermore it was also agreed that any options for change would be constructed on a cost neutral basis within the current total funding allocations for primary and secondary schools respectively i.e. no change to the current balance of funding.

- 28 On 25 June the DCSF announced its decisions following the review of 'School, Early Years and 14-16 Funding Arrangements 2008-11'. Of particular relevance to this report, the Schools Minister (Jim Knight) included the following in his statement to parliament.

"Narrowing the achievement gap between children of different backgrounds will remain one of our key aims - we want all children to succeed, whatever their background. Ensuring that the distribution of funding takes account of deprivation will therefore continue to be a critical issue over the next three years, at both national and local level.....

..... we have asked all authorities to review their formulae for funding schools to ensure that they properly reflect the funding for deprivation distributed to them through Dedicated Schools Grant in 2007-08. We are monitoring progress on this; in addition we will be asking them to submit a further statement in the autumn setting out in detail their plans for the CSR period. Where progress is not adequate there will be further challenge and support."

Comparative Attainment Data

- 29 The graphs at Annex 3 set out to compare the attainment of pupils from deprived backgrounds, based on entitlement to FSM, in York with the average for all of England. The graphs also show how the gap in attainment between those pupils entitled to FSM and their peers has changed over time.
- 30 Annex 3 shows that across all of the assessment levels the attainment gap for York has been consistently greater than the average for England. Annex 3 also shows that, in general, the gap both nationally and for York has been narrowing over time. For York a significant factor to consider is the rate at which the gap is narrowing. This is more difficult to see from Annex 3, but table 1 below summarises the position and shows that the gap in York is reducing at a faster rate than nationally.

Table 1: Percentage Point Reduction in Attainment Gap 2002 to 2006

	York	England
Key Stage 2 - English	6%	4%
Key Stage 2 - Maths	4%	2%
Key Stage 2 - Science	6%	1%
GCSE 5+ A* - C	5%	3%

- 31 Annex 4 shows a different analysis based on 2006 GCSE results and the IMD. This shows that York underperforms against the national average for pupils from the 20% most deprived areas but does slightly better than the national average for those pupils from the 20% least deprived areas.
- 32 The comparative data confirms the position that was recognised at the time of the full LMS Formula Review in 2004. At that time additional weight and resources were targeted towards deprivation and lower achievement within the York formula. This was achieved with new factors added for AEN, delegation of resources for statemented and non-statemented SEN (including targeting of these resources more closely to those pupils not achieving the expected levels at KS1, 2 & 3 and those pupils entitled to FSM).

- 33 It is still probably too early to come to any firm conclusions about the effectiveness of the changes introduced in 2005/06, but the fact that the attainment gap for York has continued to narrow faster than the national average does not suggest that radical changes are now required.

Analysis of Existing Formula Factors Targeting Deprivation

- 34 Tables 2 and 3 below provide a detailed breakdown of how funding notionally earmarked for deprivation within the LMS funding formula is actually allocated within each factor.

Table 2: Primary School Deprivation Funding Breakdown Per Pupil 2007/08

	Deprivation (FSM etc.) £/pupil	Low Prior Attainment £/pupil	High Prior Attainment £/pupil	Per Pupil & Lump Sum £/pupil	Total £/pupil
AEN	76	-	-	-	76
Non-statemented SEN	41	30	-	41	112
Statemented SEN	-	51	-	32	83
Personalisation	-	-	-	47	47
Total	118	80	0	120	318
Percentage of ISB	4.2%	2.9%	0%	4.3%	11.4%

Table 3: Secondary School Deprivation Funding Breakdown Per Pupil 2007/08

	Deprivation (FSM etc.) £/pupil	Low Prior Attainment £/pupil	High Prior Attainment £/pupil	Per Pupil & Lump Sum £/pupil	Total £/pupil
AEN	60	-	-	-	60
Non-statemented SEN	34	30	-	53	117
Statemented SEN	-	74	-	30	104
Social Inclusion	-	-	-	13	13
Personalisation	-	45	20	26	91
Total	93	150	20	122	385
Percentage of ISB	2.7%	4.3%	0.6%	3.5%	11.0%

- 35 Tables 2 and 3 show that while York nominally targets its funding for deprivation under appropriately defined factors within its formula, it is clear that a significant proportion of the funding is in fact allocated to schools in an untargeted manner based on pupil numbers or whole school lump sums. This will come under close scrutiny when the DCSF Children's Services Adviser visits the authority in the autumn to review progress. In light of this the forum recommended redirecting some element of the current per pupil and lump sum funding towards deprivation and/or low prior attainment.

Redirection of Per Pupil and Lump Sum Funding

- 36 More details of the options the forum considered are contained in the background papers available on Webstore. In light of the analysis of comparative attainment data and the concern that the York formula may be seen as still relying on per pupil and lump sum funding to some degree in its allocation of deprivation funding to schools, the forum is now recommending that some proposals for change are considered. The forum also felt that fundamental change is not justified or desirable

so soon after the fundamental review undertaken for 2005/06. The following proposals for changes to AEN, Non-statemented and Statemented SEN funding (incorporating elements of a number of options the forum discussed) are therefore put forward for consideration:

- a 10% redistribution of per pupil and lump sum funding in to the FSM deprivation indicator
- a 10% redistribution of per pupil and lump sum funding in to the Low Prior Attainment indicators
- establishing an SEN Contingency for both primary and secondary sectors in the range of £20k to £50k
- including Looked After Children (LAC) as an additional indicator within the AEN factor

Statemented SEN Contingency

- 37 Currently all available funding for Statemented SEN is either delegated to schools through the funding formula (intended for statements requiring up to 15 hours Learning Support Assistant [LSA] support) or devolved to schools (from a centrally retained budget) on an actual basis for statements requiring more than 15 hours LSA support.
- 38 The delegation arrangements are generally working well. There are though a small number of schools who genuinely are struggling to cope financially and have expressed concerns as to their ability to respond effectively to the needs of all their statemented pupils, mainly because they have attracted more children with high need statements than would have been predicted.
- 39 At present no contingency is held because, understandably, the forum wanted as much funding as possible to be made available to schools (in fact the original delegated sum totalled £120k more than the previous amount spent centrally supporting these pupils). As the system matures though, the case for a centrally held contingency becomes stronger, although this would need to be carefully managed.
- 40 One way of addressing this issue would be to hold back a small amount of the total statemented SEN per pupil funding as a contingency to deal with any exceptional circumstances. This would be held as a cash limited sum and allocated each year to those schools with the greatest need. Any resources would be made available on the basis of a school being able to demonstrate that it cannot meet its SEN obligations through delegated budgets, even when long term planning and revenue reserves are taken into account. It is anticipated that only a very small number of schools would qualify for this funding.
- 41 If this option were to be implemented, then officers would recommend separate sums for the primary and secondary sectors. The views of schools on an appropriate level of contingency for each sector would be welcomed, although officers feel this should be in the range of £20k to £50k. For example, a contingency of £50k per sector would require per pupil reductions in Statemented SEN funding of £4 for primary schools and £5 for secondaries.

- 42 This option would also require the existing devolved SEN funding for above 15 hours LSA support to be re-designated as ISB funding to allow it to be taken in to account when assessing schools bids against the contingency fund. This would have an entirely neutral impact on the level of funding received by any school.

Looked After Children (LAC)

- 43 It has been questioned as to why funding for LAC was not included as a specific element of the AEN funding factor when this was introduced in 2005/06. The AEN factor provides a fixed unit of funding (£383 in 2007/08) for each pupil that falls in to any of the following categories:
- Entitled to FSM
 - English not their first language
 - Travellers (and registered with the Traveller Education Service)
 - Service Pupils (one parent serving in the armed forces)
 - Mobile Pupils (joined the school outside the first two weeks of any term)
- 44 The total amount of funding required to add LAC to the AEN factor would be £16k for primary schools and £15k for secondary schools. This would require per pupil reductions in SEN funding of £1.28 for primary schools and £1.59 for secondaries.
- 45 Annex 5 shows the impact of introducing the four proposals listed at paragraph 36, assuming an SEN contingency sum of £50k per sector. The graphs map the per pupil funding change against the percentage of FSM pupils for each school, based on 2007/08 data.

Question 4 – Do you agree to the proposals for redistributing per pupil and lump sum funding within the AEN, Non-statemented and Statemented SEN factors as set out at paragraph 36?

Question 5 – Who should make decisions on the allocation of the SEN Contingency

a. Local Authority officers?

b. A panel of headteachers, supported by officers?

c. The Schools Forum?

Personalised Learning Funding

- 46 Given the timing of the original announcement of this funding (December 2005) the forum found it extremely difficult to come to any firm decisions about how this should be allocated to schools in the longer term. Because of this decisions on its allocation in 2006/07 were delegated to primary and secondary headteacher groups respectively. The original allocations were then maintained for 2007/08 pending this current review of deprivation funding.

Secondary Personalisation

- 47 For 2007/08 secondary (key stage 3) personalisation funding has been allocated as follows:
- 15% based on pupil numbers.
 - 15% based a lump sum for each school.
 - 50% based on low attainment (the number of pupils not achieving level 4 at Key Stage 2 in English or Maths)
 - 20% based on high attainment (the number of pupils achieving level 5 or above at Key Stage 2 in English or Maths). This last element was included in recognition that personalisation funding was also intended to cover provision for gifted and talented pupils.
- 48 Previous discussions at the forum, and the secondary headteachers' group, have been focused on whether too great a weight had been given to the proportion of funding allocated to low attainment. Given the analysis and discussion earlier in this report, the forum now believes that the low attainment proportion should not be reduced below the current 50% level. The forum therefore recommends that no further changes are made to the secondary personalisation factor.

Question 6 – Do you agree that no further changes should be made to the secondary personalisation factor?

Primary Personalisation

- 49 For 2007/08 primary personalisation funding is currently allocated as follows:
- 70% based on pupil numbers.
 - 30% based on a lump sum for each school.
- 50 It seems clear from the analysis earlier in this report that the current distribution of primary personalisation funding is unsustainable and difficult to justify in the longer term. The forum therefore recommends that a move to a distribution in line with the current secondary distribution should be implemented. Annex 6 shows the impact of moving to this position. The graphs map the per pupil funding change against the percentage of FMS pupils for each school, based on 2007/08 data.

Question 7 – Do you agree that the primary personalisation factor should be changed to allocate funding on the following basis?

- ***15% based on pupil numbers.***
- ***15% based a lump sum for each school.***
- ***50% based on low attainment.***
- ***20% based on high attainment.***

Free School Meals versus The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

- 51 The existing deprivation measure within the York formula is the number of pupils entitled to FSM, but many authorities use the IMD. The forum spent some time

considering the impact of moving to use the IMD as an alternative measure of deprivation.

52 IMD is the main index for measuring deprivation in England. Each ward in York (and England) is built up from a number of smaller areas known as Super Output Areas (SOAs), which have a minimum population size of 1,000. By taking key pieces of deprivation data about each area, it is possible to rank all the SOAs in England from the most deprived to the least deprived. A picture is then built up of an area, or the population that live in that area, based on the deprivation scores or rankings. York is made up of 118 Super Output Areas out of a total of 32,482 in England. The Index combines together seven different measures of deprivation:

- Income
- Employment
- Health
- Education
- Housing
- Crime
- Living environment

53 Every York pupil lives in a unique SOA. This maybe within a school catchment area, within the York LA boundary or another area of the country. Using data from the January pupil census (which includes postcodes) it is possible to link each pupil with a particular SOA and also the deprivation data, which goes along with that SOA. By doing this for pupils we can then build up a geodemographic profile of a school's roll based on where they live.

54 The most significant difference between FSM and IMD is that FSM relates directly to the individual children in each school, whereas IMD relates to the nature of the area in which each child lives. Annex 7 shows a comparison of the advantages and disadvantages of each approach as set out in the DCSF guidance for authorities.

55 Annexes 8 & 9 set out a number of graphs analysing the impact of any move from FSM to IMD as an indicator of deprivation. Annex 8 maps the percentage of FSM against the IMD score for each school. As might be expected this does show a close relationship between the two values for both secondary and primary schools. It is also clear though that moving to IMD would mean a change in funding levels for most schools.

56 Annex 9 shows the impact on funding at individual school level of a move from FSM to IMD. The figures are based on York's existing formula for 2007/08 (i.e. prior to any other changes discussed in this report) and show the funding change on a per pupil and whole school basis.

57 Annex 9 shows that a full move to IMD as an indicator in place of FSM would produce some significant turbulence in funding, particularly within the primary sector. The forum felt there may be some merit in allocating some funding based on the IMD indicator but were not convinced that now was the time to make that change. The forum has therefore recommended that further research be undertaken about the

impact of moving to the IMD and how this would operate in practice, with a view to implementing any changes for the three-year funding period starting in April 2011.

Question 8 – Do you agree that any move to using the IMD as a deprivation measure should be delayed until at least April 2011 to allow further research to be undertaken?

Other Minor Amendments to Deprivation Funding Proposed Prior to the Next Fixed 3-Year Funding Period

- 58 The following proposals are put forward to simply improve the presentation of some elements within this part of the formula. The intention is to make the formula easier for schools to understand, interpret and model without actually affecting the level of funding received by any individual school.

Secondary Social Inclusion (former Standards Fund allocation)

- 59 This former standards fund allocation will be included within the formula from 2008/09. It is currently allocated on a per pupil basis, but has been included in the analysis of deprivation funding options in this report.
- 60 This proposal recommends that, regardless of the decisions taken on any changes to how the funding is actually allocated, the funding is then merged in to the relevant elements of the existing Non-Statemented SEN factor.

Question 9 – Do you agree that Secondary Social Inclusion funding should be merged in to the Non-Statemented SEN factor?

Statemented SEN Prior Attainment Data

- 61 Currently some elements of Statemented SEN funding (e.g. key stage results) are presented on a percentage basis in the formula and in funding statements to schools. On the basis that there is no actual reduction to the funding of any school, it is recommended that these elements are in future presented on the basis of the number of pupils being funded.

Question 10 – Do you agree to presenting prior attainment data within the Statemented SEN factor on the basis of absolute numbers of pupils rather than percentages?

LOCALLY DRIVEN REVIEWS

Infant Class Size (ICS) Funding

- 62 The current ICS factor operates by allocating additional funding to primary and infant schools to help them deliver on their statutory requirement to organise reception, year 1 & 2 pupils in to class sizes of no more than 30 pupils. In 2007/08 the York ICS funding formula allocates £348,319 of ICS funding to 41 schools at an average amount of £8,496 per school (range £71 to £21,941).
- 63 The factor was introduced at the time of the fundamental review of the whole funding formula in 2005/06. A key element of that whole formula review was adjustments to

align funding as close as possible to the actual number of pupils in a school in each academic year. This was achieved by way of a dual pupil count, using pupil numbers at the January immediately prior to the financial year to calculate funding for the period April to August and using an estimate of the pupil numbers at the January within the financial year to calculate funding for the period September to March. The second estimated figure was then retrospectively adjusted in the following financial year once the actual pupil numbers were known.

- 64 When the DCSF introduced multi-year budgeting in 2006/07 they also introduced a new requirement to fund only on the January pupil numbers immediately prior to the financial year. This means that for the 2007/08 financial year, for example, the ICS funding will be calculated entirely on the number of pupils in reception, year 1 & 2 classes in January 2007. Clearly ICS funding is meant to be targeted directly to those schools in particular circumstances to help them deliver on a statutory requirement. The current arrangements therefore may not respond effectively to the position of some schools in the autumn and spring terms of a financial year. In some instances this could result in significant under or over funding of particular schools.
- 65 During its review of this factor the forum discussed a large range of possible options. In addition the forum also considered the wider issue of the relative level of funding provided within the formula for reception pupils compared to other primary year groups. Full details of all the options considered and the analysis of the reception funding position are available in the background reports at Webstore. In summary the forum were unable to come to a conclusive recommendation for the future treatment of ICS funding within the formula and have therefore put forward a number of options for consideration by schools.

Option 1

- 66 Retain the current formula factor based on the January pupil numbers prior to the financial year. The rationale for the funding would then change to be clear that the funding is covering a whole academic year i.e. 7 months in arrears and 5 months in advance (e.g. in 2008/09 funding based on January 2008 numbers would be for the academic year September 2007 to August 2008).
- 67 This helps to maintain stability and predictability of funding during financial years but schools would be unclear at the time they are making plans prior to an academic year whether funding will be provided. The underlying problem of using a fixed January count, which could be different from the actual situation in April or September, still remains.

Option 2

- 68 Delete the current factor and reallocate the funding within the reception, year 1 & 2 Age Weighted Pupil Units (AWPUs). Based on 2007/08 data this would enable an increase in each AWPU of £69 per pupil. If all of the funding were targeted to the reception AWPU the increase would be £207.

Option 3

- 69 Delete the current factor and reallocate a cash limited sum to an ICS contingency that schools who were experiencing exceptional difficulties in conforming to the ICS

legislation could access. The balance of the funding would be redistributed within the reception, year 1 & 2 AWPU. For example, if £50k were kept as a contingency then this would enable an increase in each AWPU of £59 per pupil. If all of the funding were targeted to the reception AWPU the increase would be £177. Bids could be assessed either by officers, a panel of headteachers with advice provided by officers or the forum. If this option were to be pursued then the exact timetable for the process and format of the bids would need to be discussed in more detail. Schools' views on the 3 options would be welcomed.

Question 11 – Which of the 3 options for Infant Class Size funding set out at paragraphs 66-69 do you support?

Question 12 – If option 3 were to be implemented, who should make decisions on the allocation of the ICS Contingency:

a. Local Authority officers?

b. A panel of headteachers, supported by officers?

c. The Schools Forum?

Small Secondary School Factor

Background

- 70 The current formula, introduced in 2005/06, saw a significant increase in the lump sum allocations for both primary and secondary schools. For primary schools, because of the very small number of pupils in some schools, the lump sum was set at a level to allocate sufficient funding (in conjunction with the AWPU) for any size of school.
- 71 The secondary school lump sum however was only intended to work effectively for schools with 450 or more pupils. Once the number of pupils drops below this level the funding provided by the formula would make it difficult for any school to provide a properly balanced curriculum for all of its pupils. In recent years only one school has seen its numbers drop below 450 (Lowfield, 414 at January 2006 and 358 at January 2007). In this instance the school was already included in the wider West of York review and the forum had set aside a specific contingency provision to support the school (and others subject to the review) up until the point of closure in August 2007.
- 72 In light of this experience and recognising that there may be one other school in the near future that will see their pupil numbers drop below 450 it would now seem sensible to consider a specific factor in the funding formula to deal with this scenario. Rather than review all of the secondary AWPU and lump sum (which would be a considerable undertaking so soon after the full formula review) the forum asked officers to explore options for a new formula factor that is only triggered when a secondary school's pupil numbers fall below 450.

Proposal

- 73 Full details of the analysis undertaken by officers and considered by the forum is contained in the background papers. In light of this work the forum is recommending that for secondary schools with less than 450 KS3 and KS4 pupils (as used in the AWPU factor within the formula) the Small Secondary factor will generate additional funding based on the weighted average of the KS3 and KS4 AWPU for each pupil

between the actual number of pupils and 450 pupils. For 2007/08 the weighted average equates to £2,374.

- 74 This proposal has been modelled against the known budget position of York's smallest secondary school and the only school likely to fall within the remit of the new factor for the foreseeable future. Although it is difficult to come to precise conclusions, this work does suggest that a formula at this level should be reasonably effective at pupil numbers close to the 450 level. It does though indicate that as the number of pupils drops further below this level the additional funding allocations could be too generous and more than required to enable the school to support a balanced curriculum for its pupils. In light of this the proposal put forward for consideration is that as pupil numbers fall further below 450 the percentage of the weighted AWPUs allocated reduces by 0.5% per pupil. This continues until a minimum value of 50% per pupil is reached at the 350 pupil level. Table 4 indicates how this would work over a range of pupil numbers (based on 2007/08 values).

Table 4: Impact of Proposed Small Secondary Factor

Pupil Numbers fte	Number Below 450 fte	Percentage of KS3/4 AWPUs %	Amount per 'Missing' Pupil £	Funding Allocation £
>449	<1	100.0%	2,374	2,374
449	1	99.5%	2,362	2,362
448	2	99.0%	2,350	4,700
447	3	98.5%	2,338	7,014
446	4	98.0%	2,326	9,304
445	5	97.5%	2,314	11,570
440	10	95.0%	2,255	22,550
430	20	90.0%	2,136	42,720
400	50	75.0%	1,780	89,000
350	Max 100	50.0%	1,187	118,700

- 75 It is also important to recognise that any school triggering this factor is already likely to be under close scrutiny from the authority. Applying funding in this way would be seen as a short-term option and a full review of the school's economic viability would be instigated.

Funding

- 76 If this factor had operated in 2007/08 then additional funding of £24,673 would have been required. Assuming funding of the factor is ring-fenced to the secondary sector then this equates to a reduction in all schools KS3 and KS4 AWPUs of £2.69 per pupil. More realistically though the estimated impact of this factor in 2008/09 is £61,186 or a £6.68 reduction in KS3/4 AWPUs for all secondaries. This could rise to a maximum of £118,700 (at 100 'missing' pupils) or a £12.96 reduction in all secondary AWPUs.

Question 13 – Do you agree that a Small Secondary School factor should be introduced as set out at paragraph 74 & 75?

Special School and Enhanced Resource Centre (ERC) Funding

Background

- 77 This review originated from a formal request from the governing body of one of York's two special schools for a review of the relative levels of funding between secondary and primary special schools. In addition a number of schools that operate Enhanced Resource Units also requested that the rates of funding for place purchasing at the units be reviewed.
- 78 Officers were happy to support the requests for a review on the grounds that the current formula was introduced at the same time as major structural change was being made to special school provision in the city. In addition, the fact that both special schools have since moved into new buildings justifies an early review of this part of the formula. However, it was recommended that this be carried out as a cost neutral exercise within the total funding currently allocated to Special Schools and ERCs.
- 79 The forum therefore agreed that the review should focus on the following areas:
- assess the impact of reducing place led funding across the board but then including all special school and ERC pupils in the AWPU calculations based on their ages at the time of the January census. To be modelled on a cost neutral basis.
 - consider whether special school and/or ERC pupils should also trigger funding in other elements of the mainstream school funding formula, for example Additional Educational Needs or premises factors for ERC pupils
 - review the level of premises funding required at the two special schools now that actual data is available following their recent moves to new accommodation.

Analysis

- 80 It has not been possible to analyse the special school formulae for all other authorities. From those that have been reviewed 53% (27 out of 51) have some form of age related element within their place funding calculations. Almost all of these give a greater weight as the pupils' age increases. For York's Ofsted/Audit Commission family group of authorities this rises to 80%. This alone suggests it is appropriate to be considering some form of age weighting in York's formula. Unfortunately though it has not been possible to identify enough individual schools that are similar in nature to the two York special schools to enable reliable comparisons to be made at this level.
- 81 Table 5 sets out the revenue budget position of York's two special schools since they were established in 2004.

Table 5: Special School Revenue Budget Position 2004 to 2007

	Secondary £000	Primary £000
2004/05 In Year Surplus/(Deficit) - 7 months	(15)	63
2005/06 In Year Surplus/(Deficit)	(165)	42
2006/07 In Year Surplus/(Deficit)	(103)	63
Cumulative Surplus/(Deficit) at 31 March 2007	(194)	168

Note - all in year figures have been adjusted to remove the impact of the one-off allocation of £120k agreed by the forum in 2004/05.

- 82 It is much more difficult to analyse the exact position of each ERC because of the overlaps and interrelationship between mainstream funding and costs in these schools. Officers are though reasonably confident from the evidence provided by these schools that the general overall picture is one of increasing deficit budgets over time, regardless of the age range catered for.
- 83 The graphs at Annex 10 set out data for the overall level of special school funding as a proportion of both mainstream funding and the level of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) on a per pupil basis. York's position is compared to the family group authorities and the average of all English local authorities.
- 84 These type of comparisons are quite difficult to make with accuracy because of the small numbers of schools and pupils involved and the differing nature of provision at each school. The graphs do though tend to suggest that the overall proportion of funding that York allocates to special school pupils is at the high end both nationally and within the family group. They don't suggest any significant level of relative underfunding for special schools in York on an average per pupil basis and certainly not when compared to resources available to York through the DSG.
- 85 From this analysis the forum concluded that some form of age weighting seems justified for special schools but that this should not be at the expense of funding already allocated to mainstream schools within the formula.

Proposal

- 86 Full details of the options considered by the forum are contained in the background papers. In light of this work the forum is now recommending some material changes to the operation of the Special School and ERC elements of the funding formula.
- 87 Almost all authorities that include an age weighting in their special school formulae do this by applying the general AWPU factors (or a proportion of them) to the pupils within special schools. This is done as a top up to the place value applied to each pupil based on their individual special needs.
- 88 The proposed formula applies 75% of the mainstream AWPU to all pupils in the special schools (and ERCs). In addition special school (and ERC) pupils would also generate funding within the premises and AEN (but not SEN and Personalised Learning) elements of the main formula. The total additional cost of this option (based on 2007/08 data and ignoring the impact of ceilings and floors) would be

£669k. Assuming a cost neutral introduction within the special/ERC sector, this would necessitate a 16.25% reduction in each special place value.

- 89 The forum felt that this level of place value reduction was too great. Officers, however, struggled to come up with further formula options that delivered the change required whilst not prejudicing the on-going position of the primary special school and remaining within the existing level of special/ERC resources.
- 90 From the analysis set out earlier the forum were clear that any transfer of resources from mainstream primary/secondary into the special school sector was not considered appropriate. It is also important to note though that over the last 2 years York has bucked the national trend and been able to stabilise the number of special needs pupils sent to expensive Out of City Placements. This has been achieved partly as a result of the forum agreeing to redirect DSG resources to support an expansion of the local fostering programme. As a consequence savings have been generated in both the Out of City Placement and SEN Recoupment budgets that totalled over £250k in 2006/07.
- 91 We need to be cautious about projecting these underspends forward in to future years as small numbers of unexpected placements can have a significant impact on expenditure levels. In addition we are aware that North Yorkshire County Council have been reviewing their own special needs provision and this may have a detrimental impact on the level of Recoupment receipts we can expect to receive in the coming years. Despite these caveats though it is reasonable and prudent to expect that a sum of up to £100k should be available for re-investment in 2008/09.
- 92 In light of this, the proposal put forward by the forum for consideration assumes an additional sum of £100k is applied to the special/ERC sector and is used to lower the reduction in place values required to 10.8%. The £100k additional requirement would be funded in future years by a redirection of centrally retained SEN Recoupment budgets.
- 93 The impact of this at individual school/ERC level is set out in table 6 below:

Table 6: Impact of Special School / ERC Proposal

School/ERC	Change in Funding	
	Per School/ERC £	Per Pupil £
Secondary Special School	+ 74,295	+ 502
Primary Special School	- 34,282	- 418
Primary ERC Average	+ 13,412	+ 677
Secondary ERC Average	+ 9,876	+ 954

Any changes will be subject to the transitional arrangements set out below

Question 14 – Do you agree to the introduction of an age weighted element to the Special School and Enhanced Resource Centre formula funded by reductions in the place values and a redirection of £100k from the centrally held SEN Recoupment budget. (see paragraphs 88 – 92)?

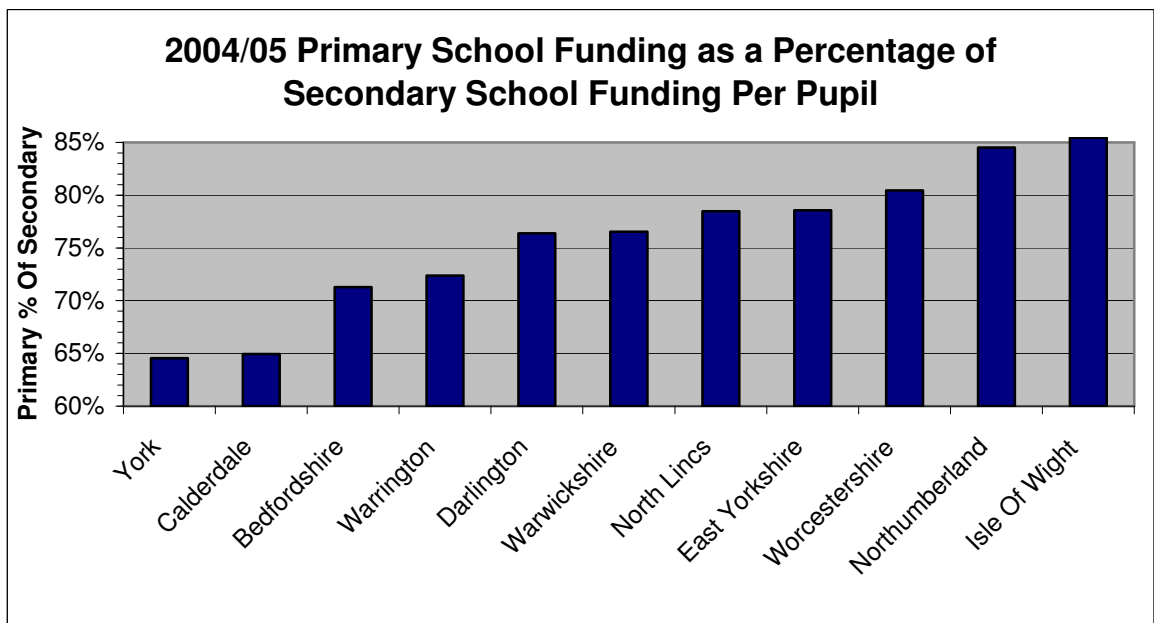
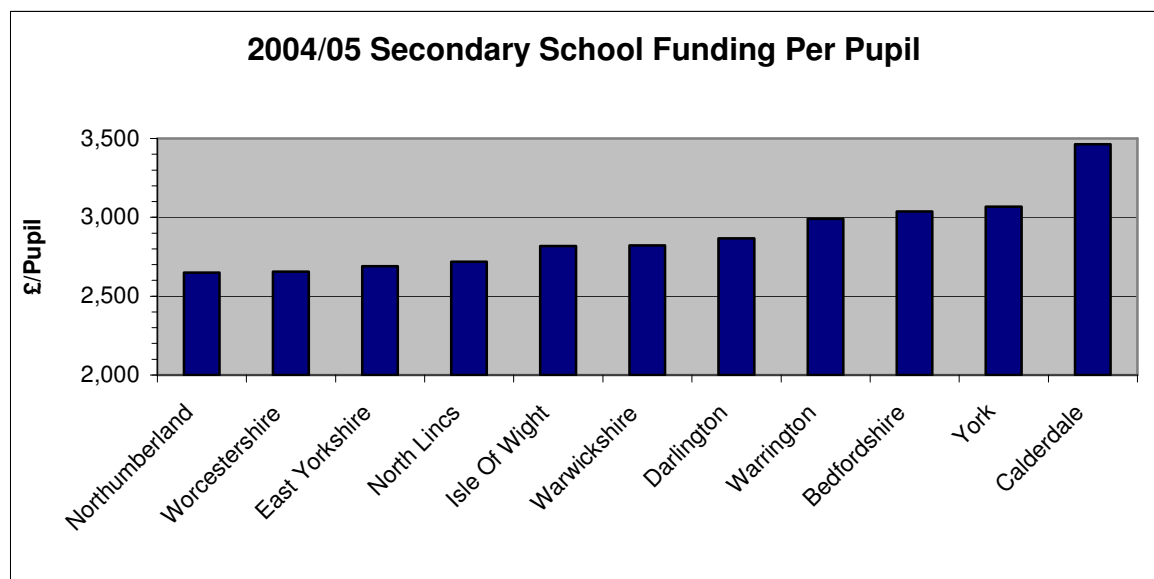
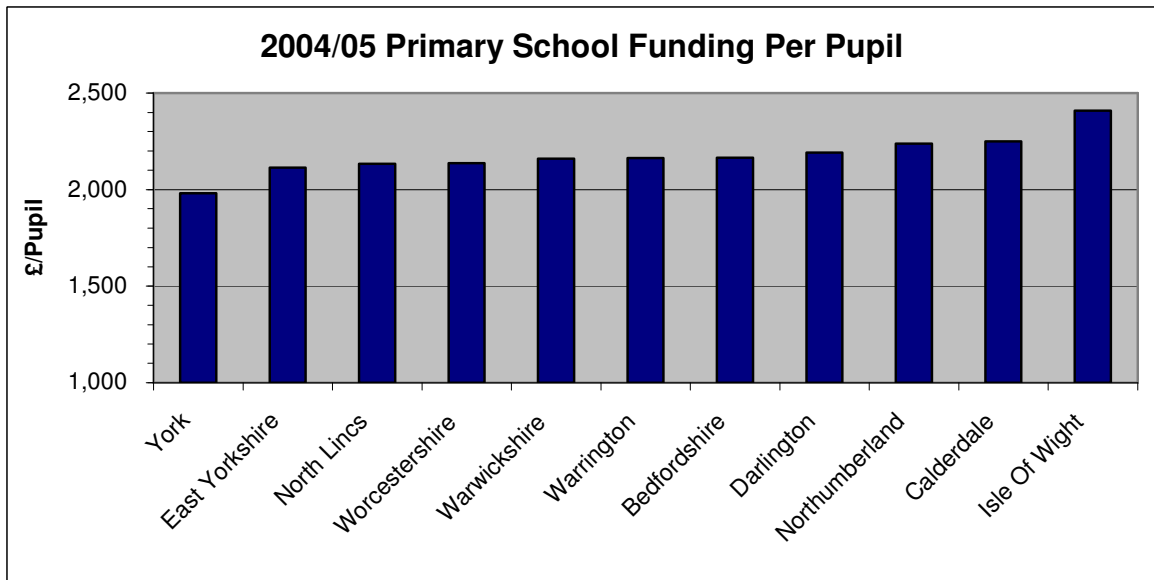
TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

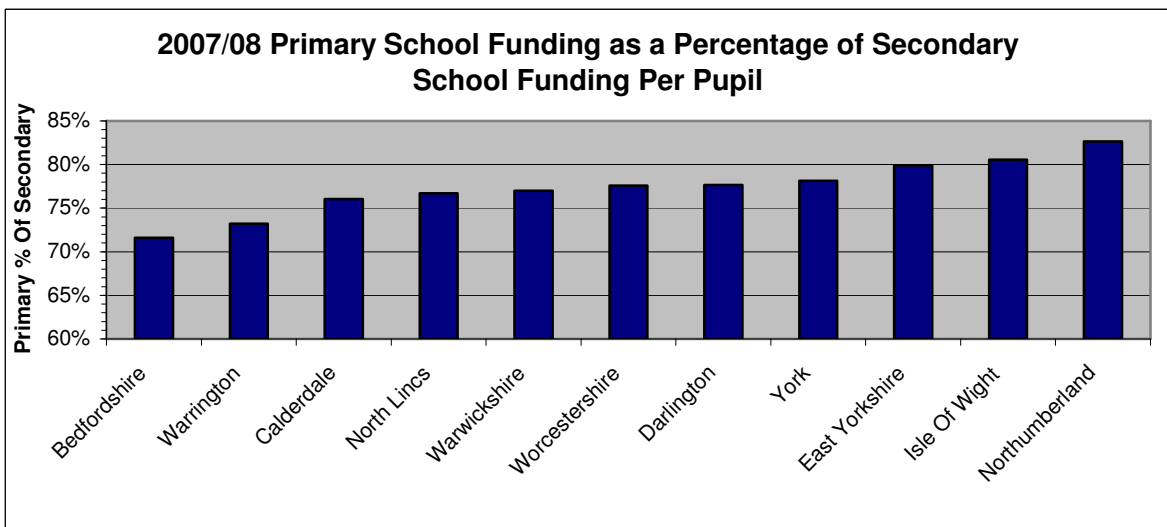
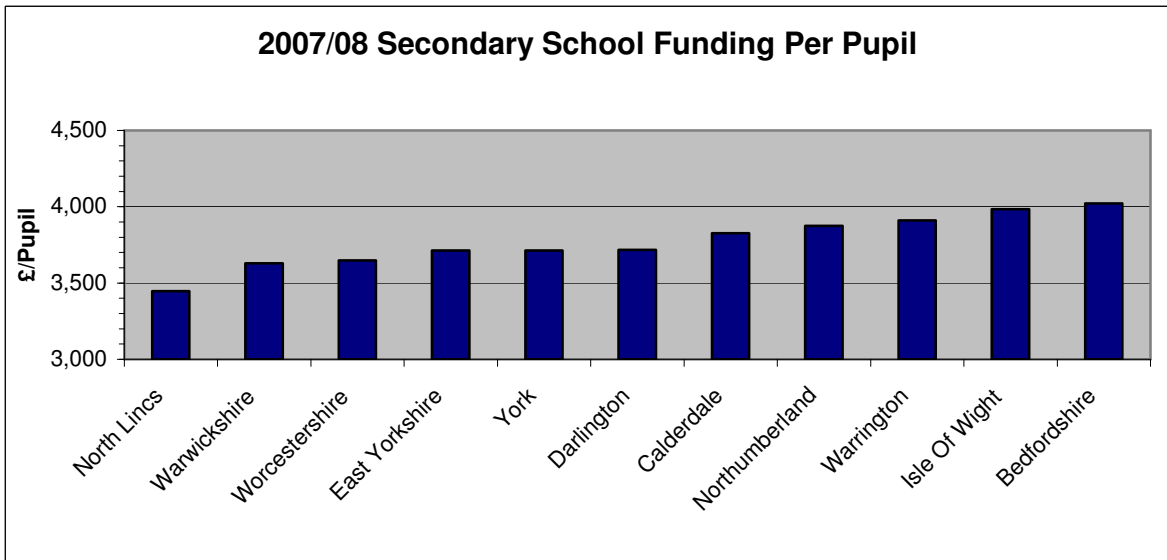
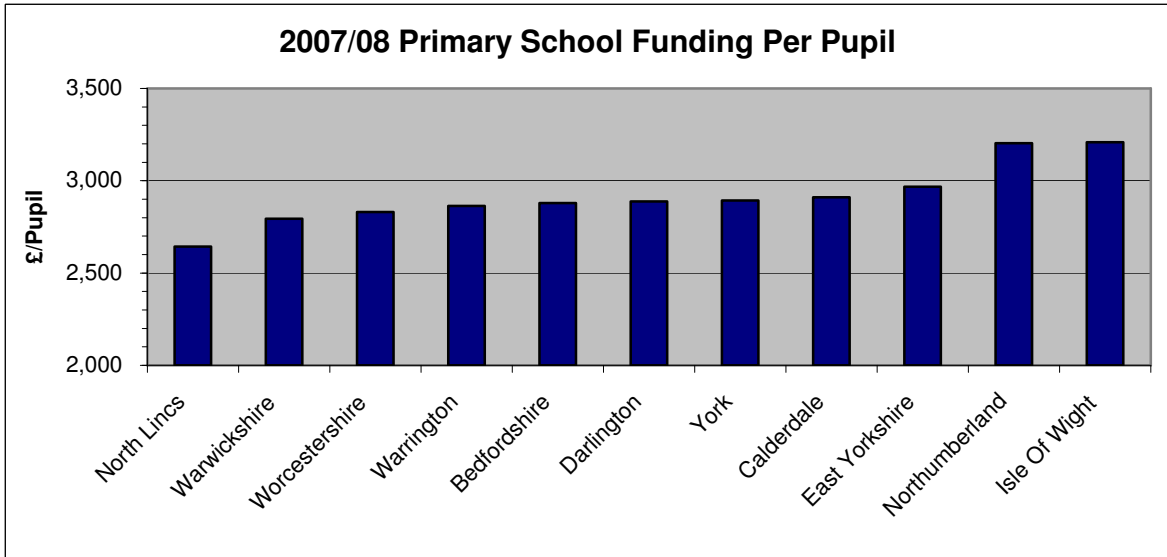
- 94 With the exception of the changes to the Special School / ERC section of the formula, all of the proposed changes have been put forward on the basis that they are cost neutral within the overall level of resources available in either the primary or secondary sectors of the ISB respectively. The additional requirement of £100k within the Special / ERC sector is to be funded by a transfer of resources from outside of the current ISB (the centrally retained SEN Recoupment budget).
- 95 It is proposed that the current arrangements of using the 'Ceilings and Floors' mechanism to smooth transition to new funding levels for individual schools is continued. Under this arrangement a minimum (floor) percentage per pupil increase is set each year by the Local Authority in consultation with the Schools' Forum (in recent years this has been set at the level of the DCSF minimum funding guarantee). This ensures that all schools receive a year on year increase in funding per pupil regardless of the implications of any other changes in the funding formula.
- 96 The maximum (ceiling) per pupil increase is then determined depending on the overall increase in the total level of resources available. Only those schools whose formula funding level (on a per pupil basis) is above the ceiling level would have their increase capped at the ceiling level.
- 97 In line with the DCSF guarantee, certain specific items such as Infant Class Size Funding (if retained), Prior Year Adjustments, Rent & Rates and PFI funding would be excluded from the ceilings and floors calculations.

Question 15 – Do you agree that the existing ceilings and floors mechanism should continue to be used to smooth the transition to revised funding levels for individual schools?

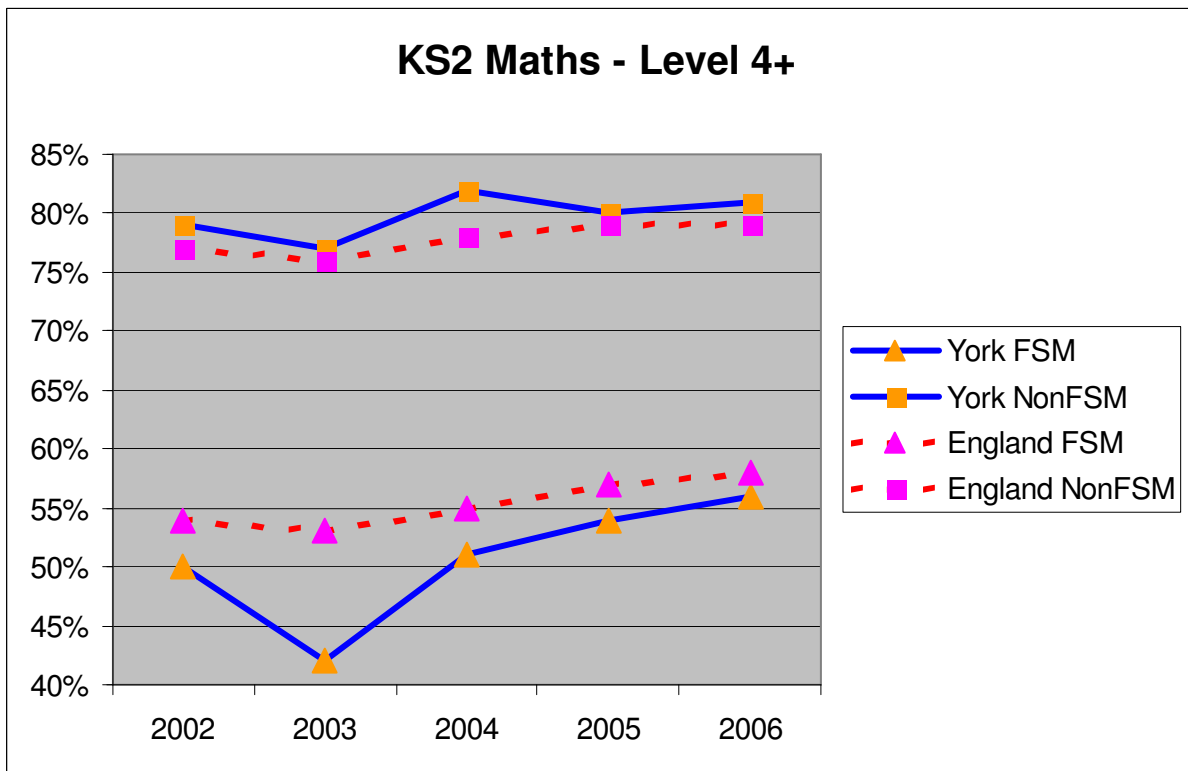
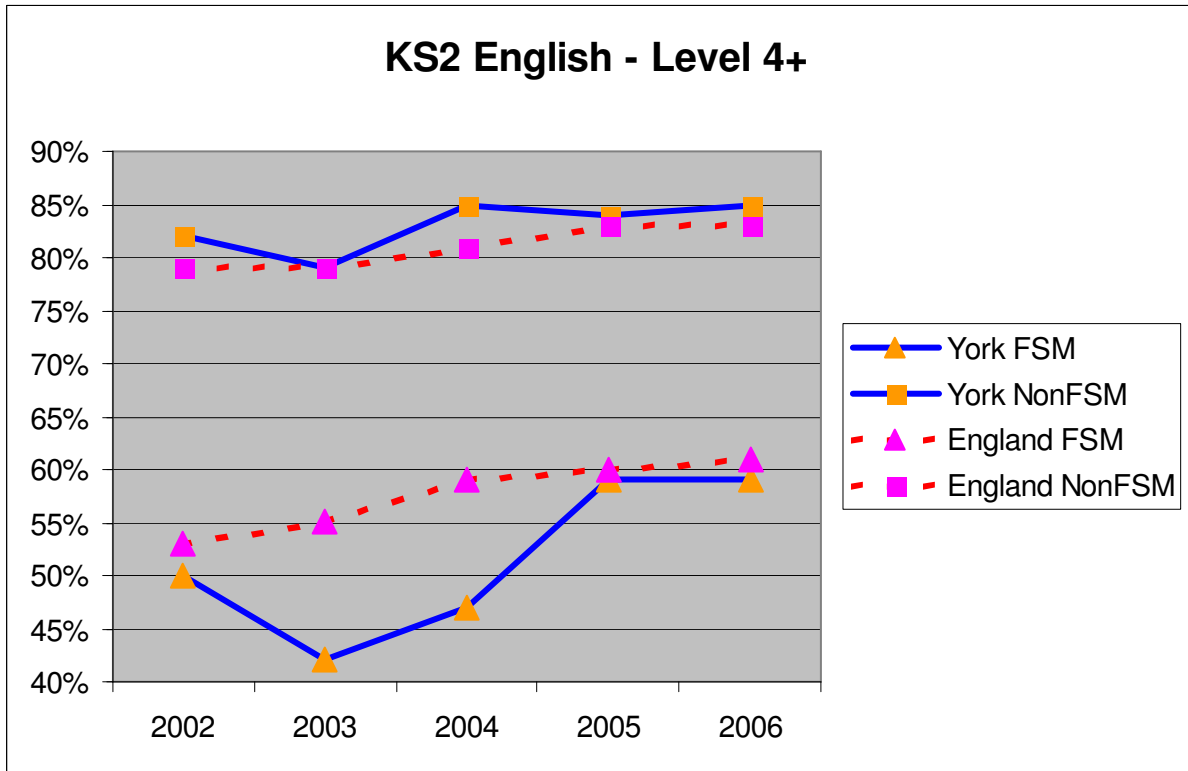
TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSED FORMULA CHANGES

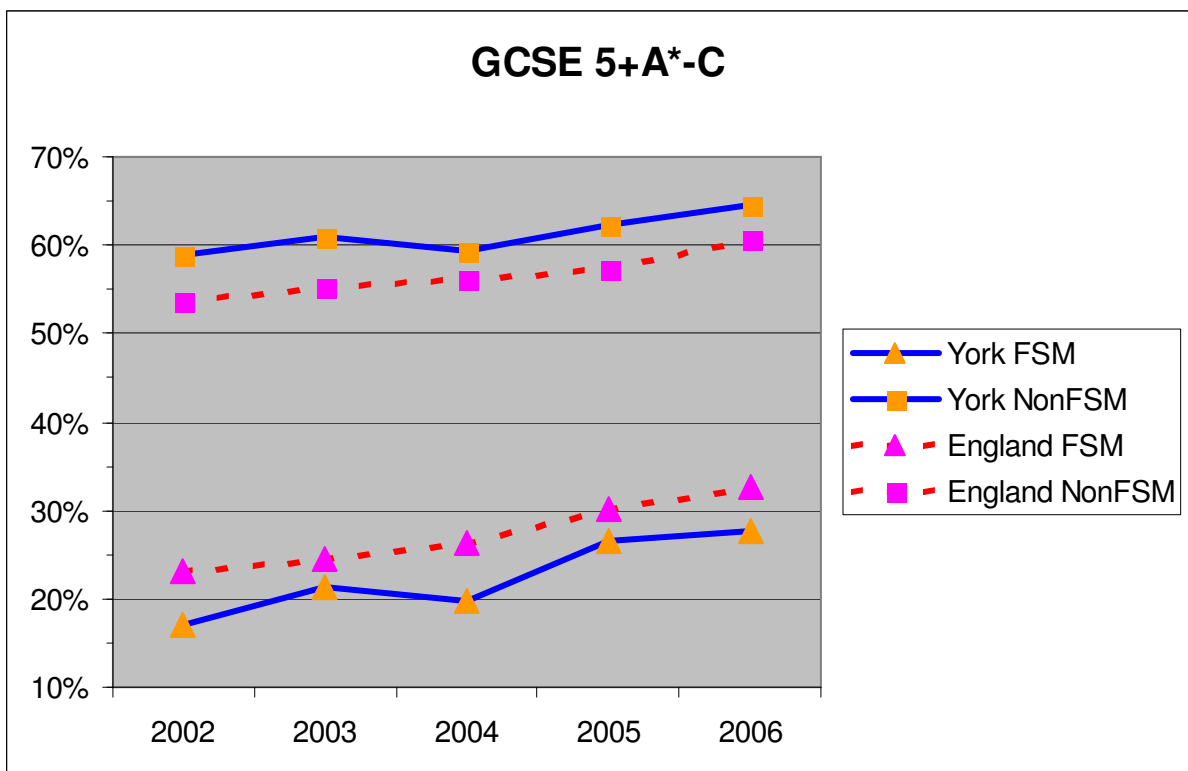
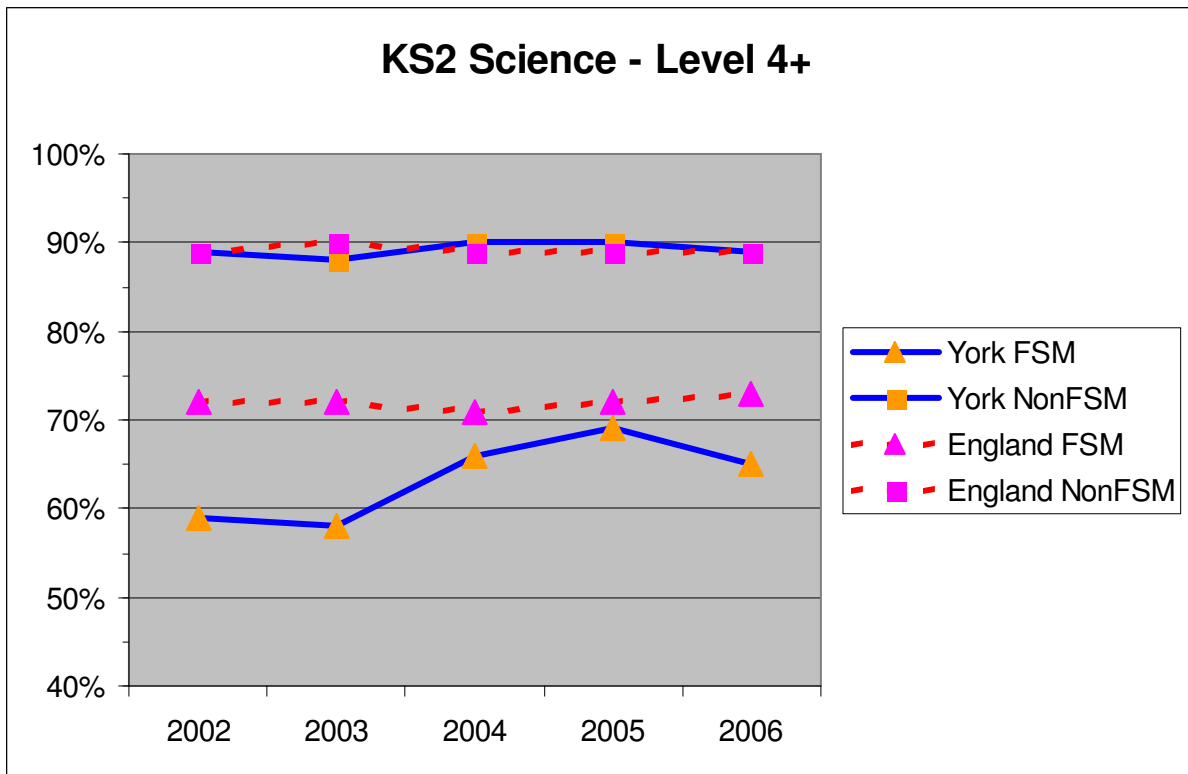
Consultation Document Published	w/c 3 September 2007
Consultation Responses to be Returned by	9 November 2007
School Forum meets	mid December 2007
Report to Executive Member for Children's Services	January 2008 EMAP
Provisional Resource Allocation Statements Issued to Schools:	Mid February 2008
Final Confirmed Resource Allocation Statements Issued to Schools:	By end of March 2008
Funding Under Revised Formula Factors Distributed to Schools	April 2008 onwards

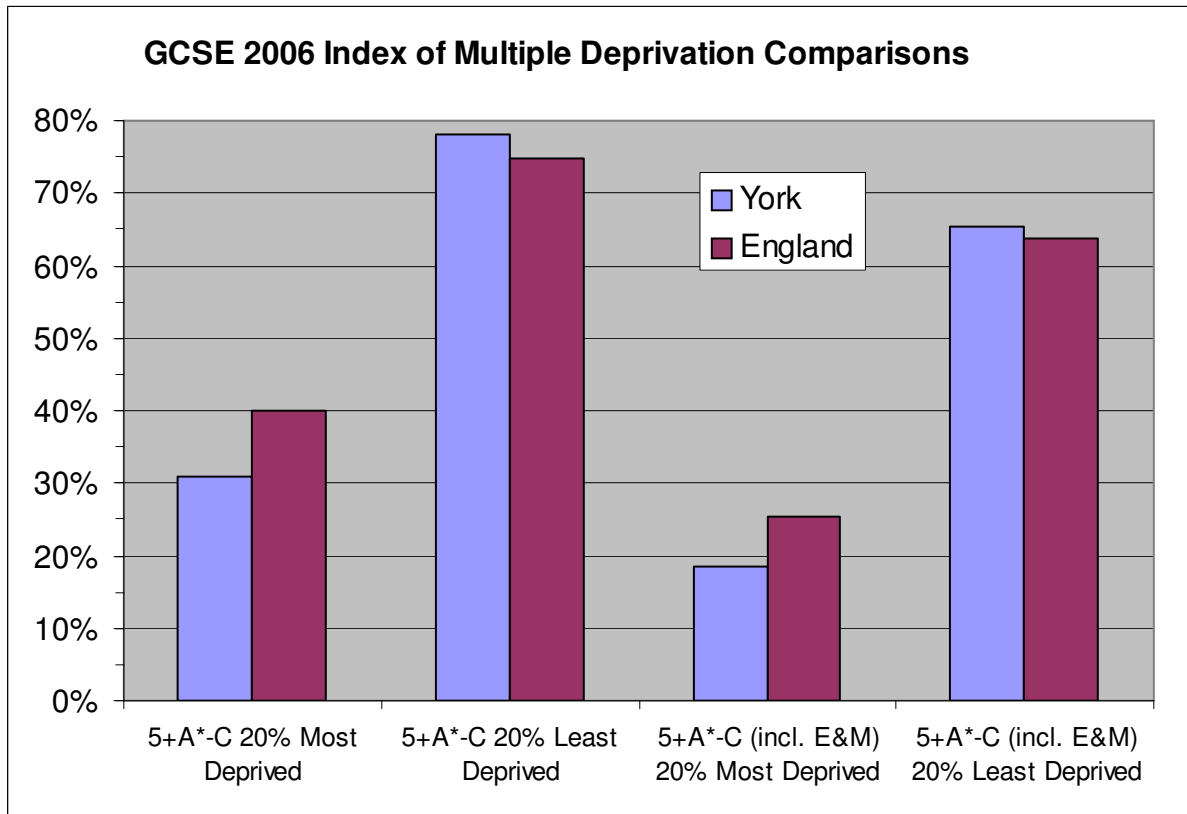




The 'Attainment Gap' 2002 to 2006

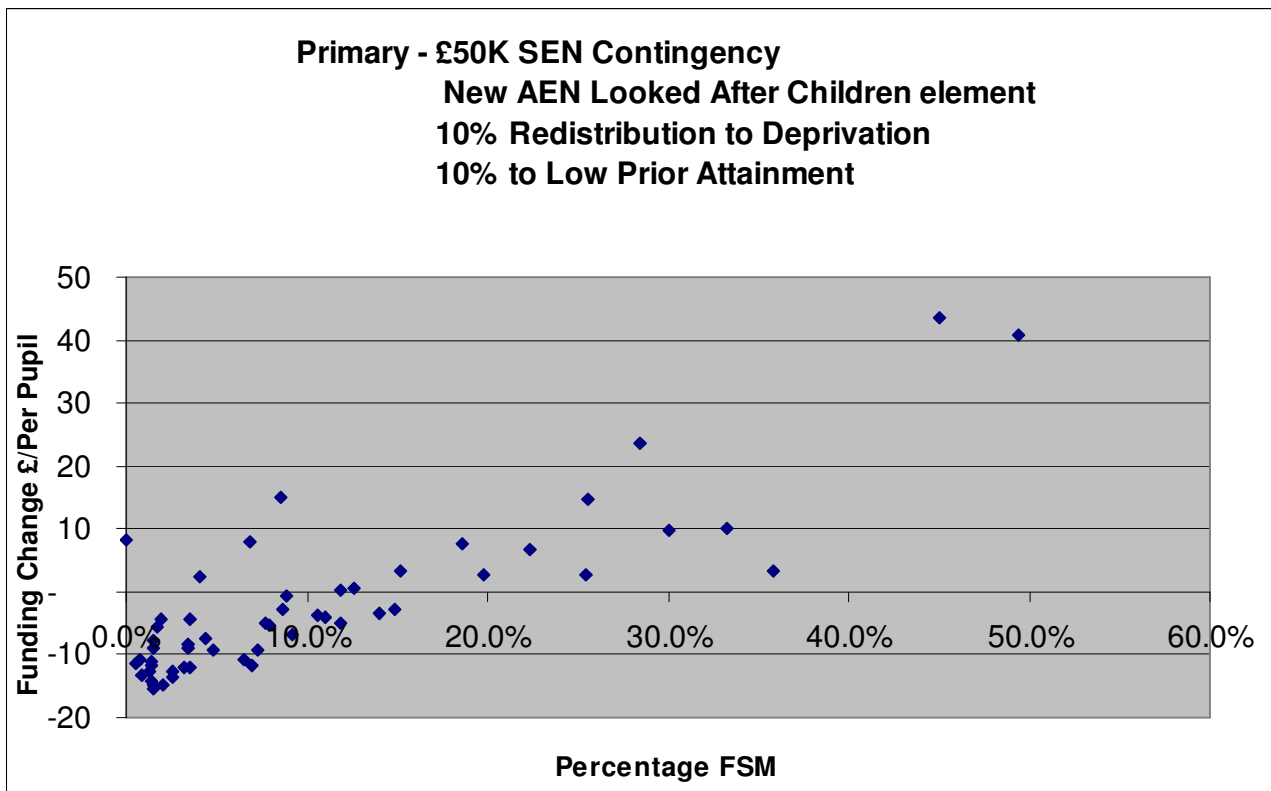
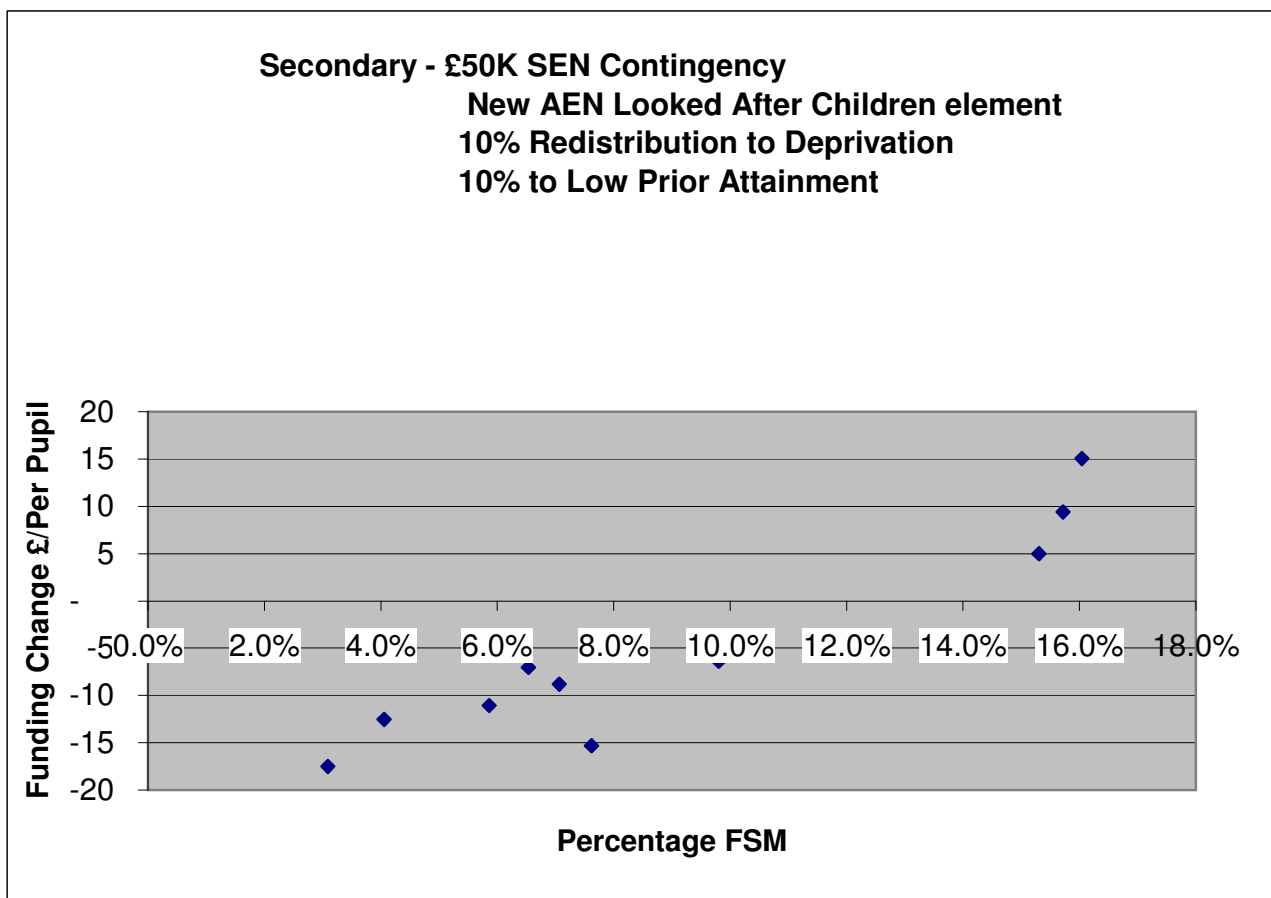


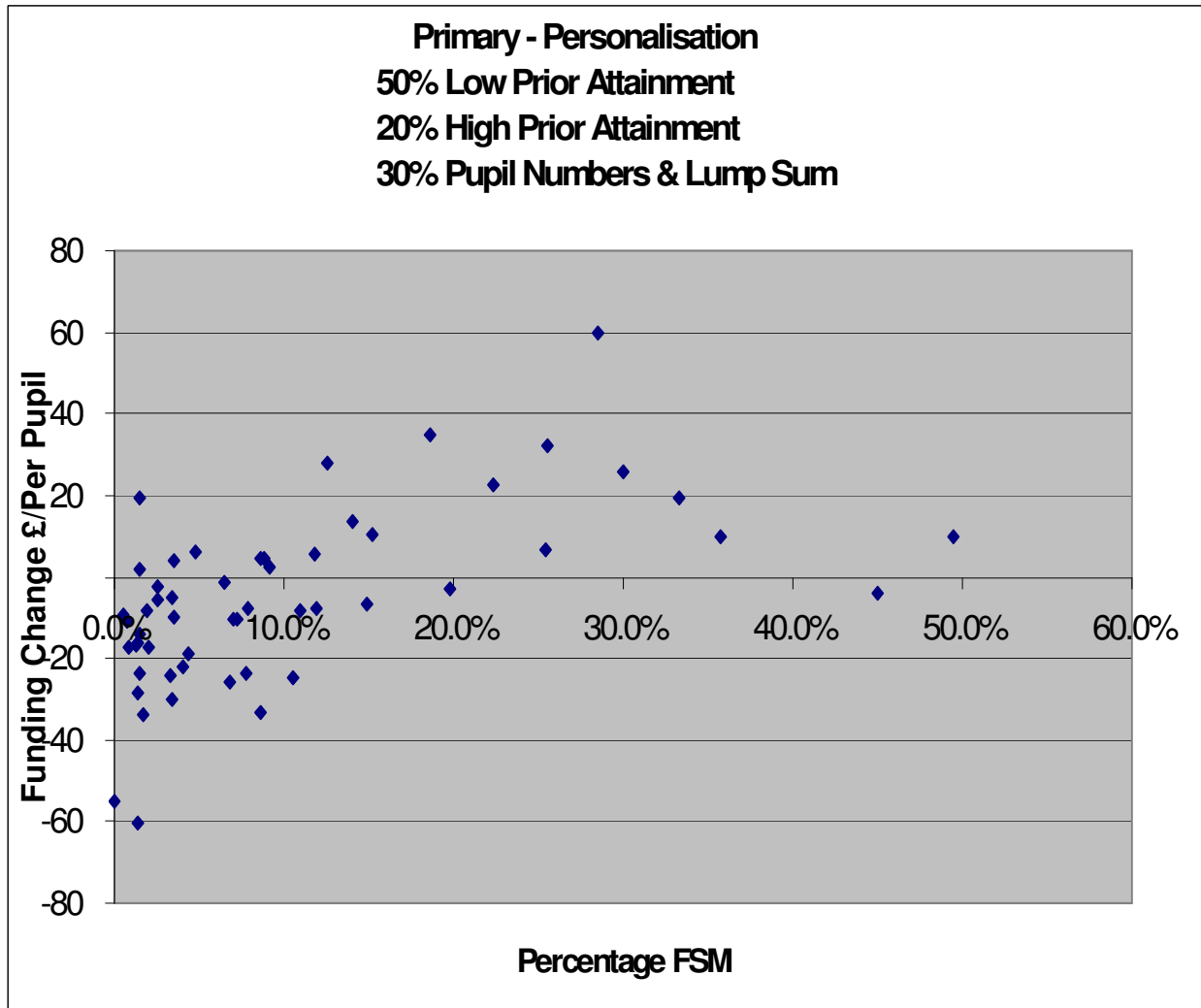




20% Least/Most Deprived = those pupils who reside in an area classified as within the 20% least/most deprived areas (Super Output Areas) of the country based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation.

**Impact of the Proposals to Redirect Per Pupil and Lump sum Funding
Within the AEN, Non-statemented and Statemented SEN Factors**





Comparison of FSM & IMD as an Indicator for Formula Funding of Schools

Free School Meals

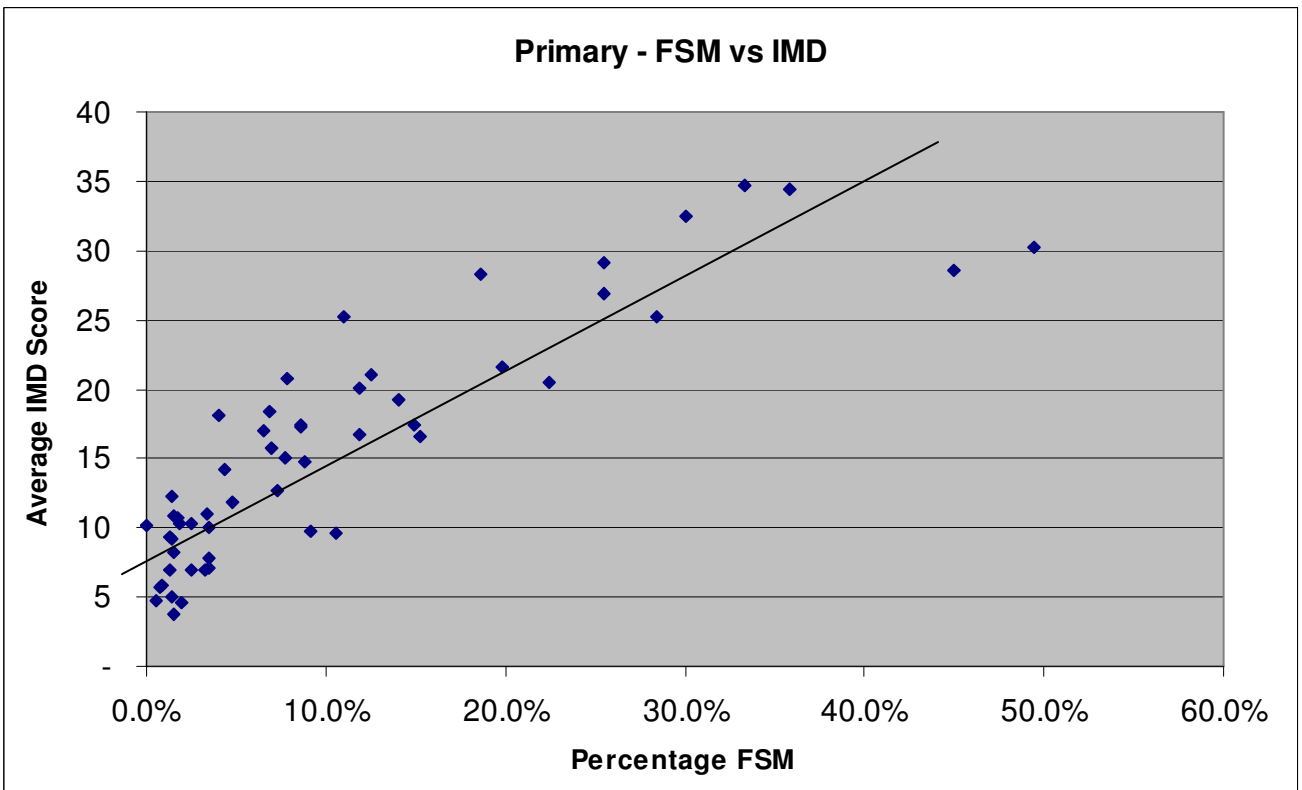
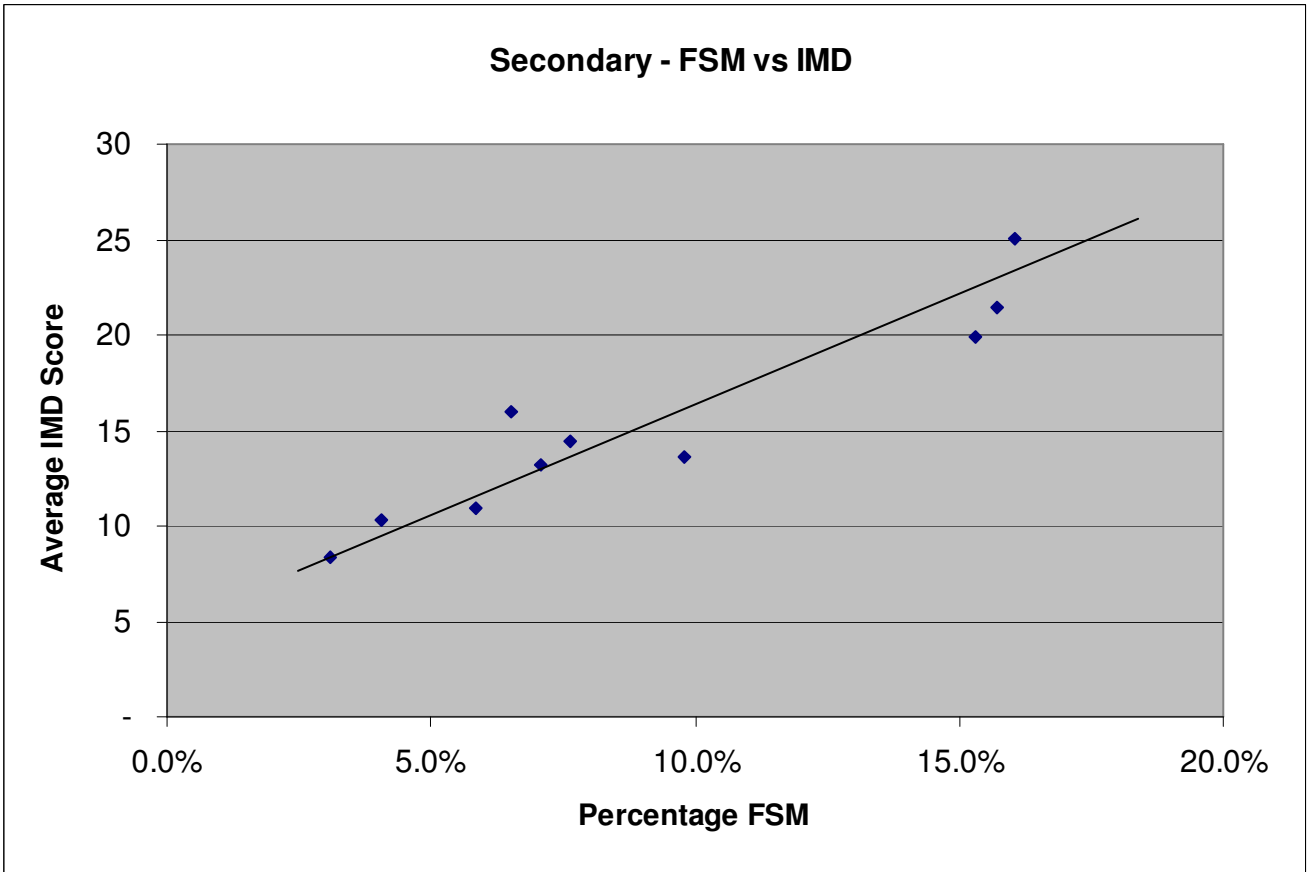
Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>Readily understood.</p> <p>Readily available.</p> <p>Linked to actual children in school.</p> <p>Updated yearly.</p> <p>Income based, so good indicator of economic deprivation.</p> <p>Many research studies have shown high inverse correlation of pupil performance with FSM; also some correlation with distribution of SEN pupils; studies eg PWC (2001) found FSM best available proxy at that time.</p> <p>DCSF, OFSTED and other researchers have frequently used FSM as proxy for deprivation in published analyses and school comparisons, both as a measure of pupil deprivation and deprived schools.</p>	<p>Many who are entitled to FSM may not claim - because of stigma, because do not want a meal, because of complexity of claims process, lack of awareness of entitlement etc.</p> <p>May be systematic bias - parents will not register if not claiming a school meal; registration may be linked to nature/quality of school meals in each area/school (eg whether there is a hot meals service in a rural area) as well as social/cultural factors. Schools can influence by encouraging/helping parents to register entitlement.</p> <p>Changes in claiming methods linked to benefit changes may have reduced claimant rates.</p> <p>May be less reliable in high turnover schools because of time taken to register claim.</p> <p>Only picks up those with income below threshold, not low incomes just above the benefits threshold.</p> <p>If used as main proxy for both social deprivation and AEN/SEN can determine large element of funding and risk producing volatility in funding if FSM% changes significantly for an individual school; particularly true for "cliff edge" factors where schools lose significant funding when change bands.</p> <p>Not available for nursery age children; lower take up for some age groups.</p>

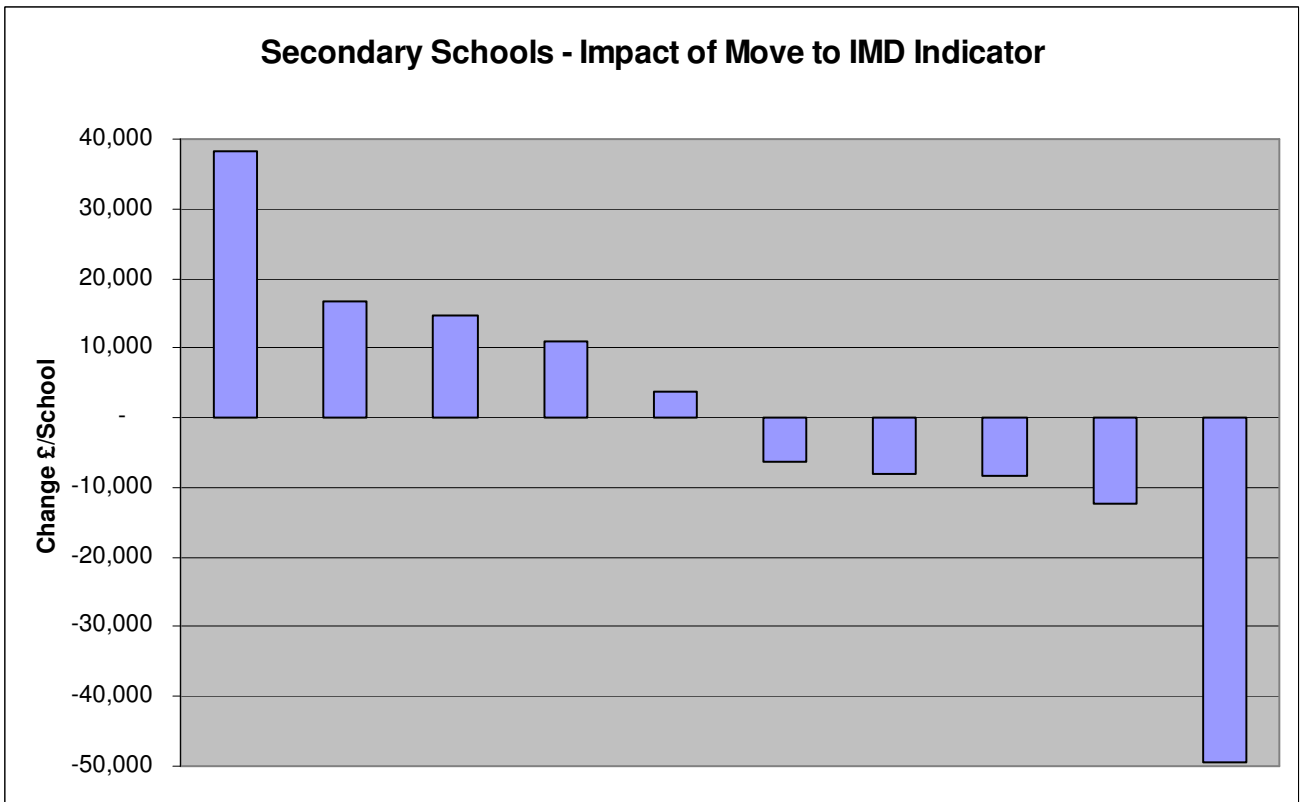
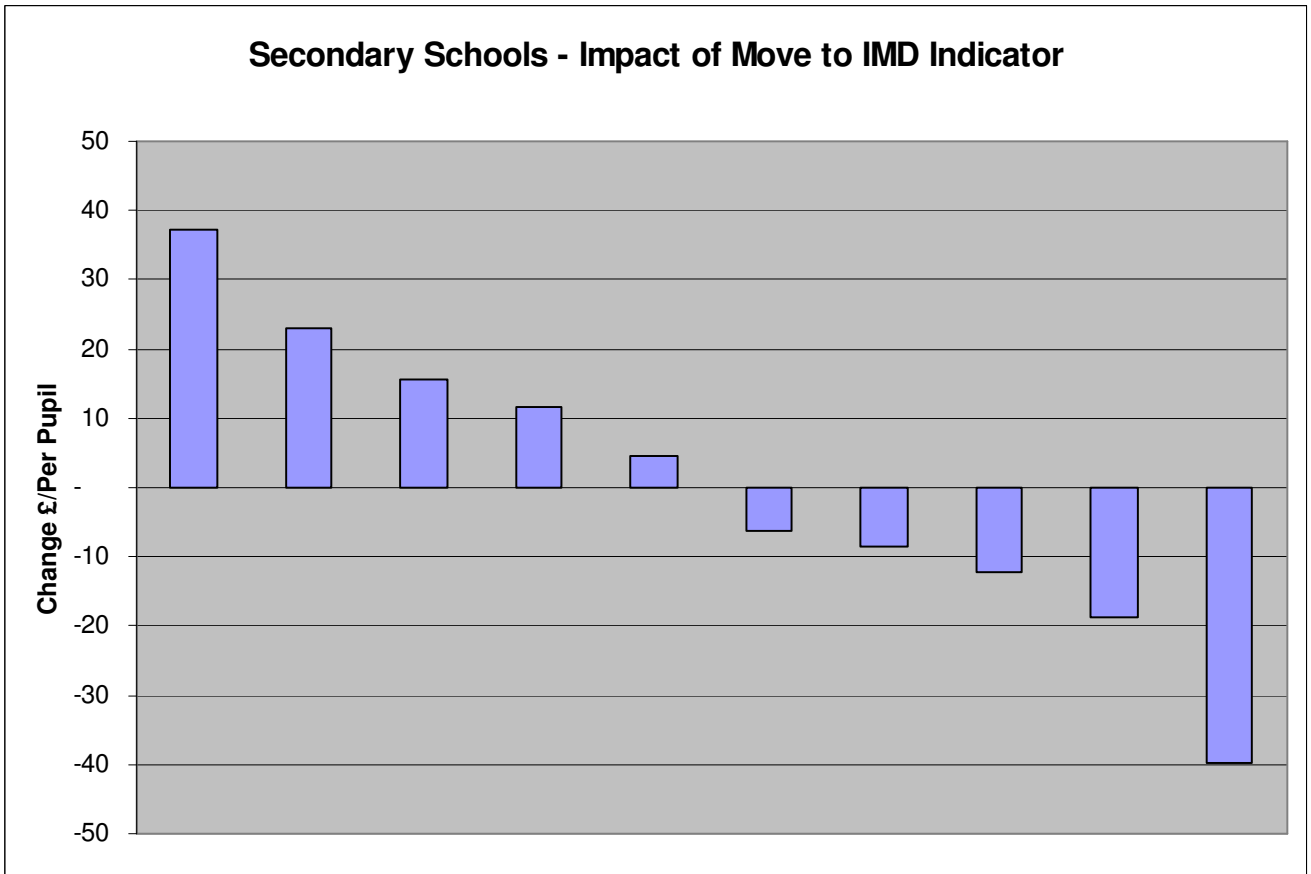
Source: DCSF Guidance for Authorities September 2006

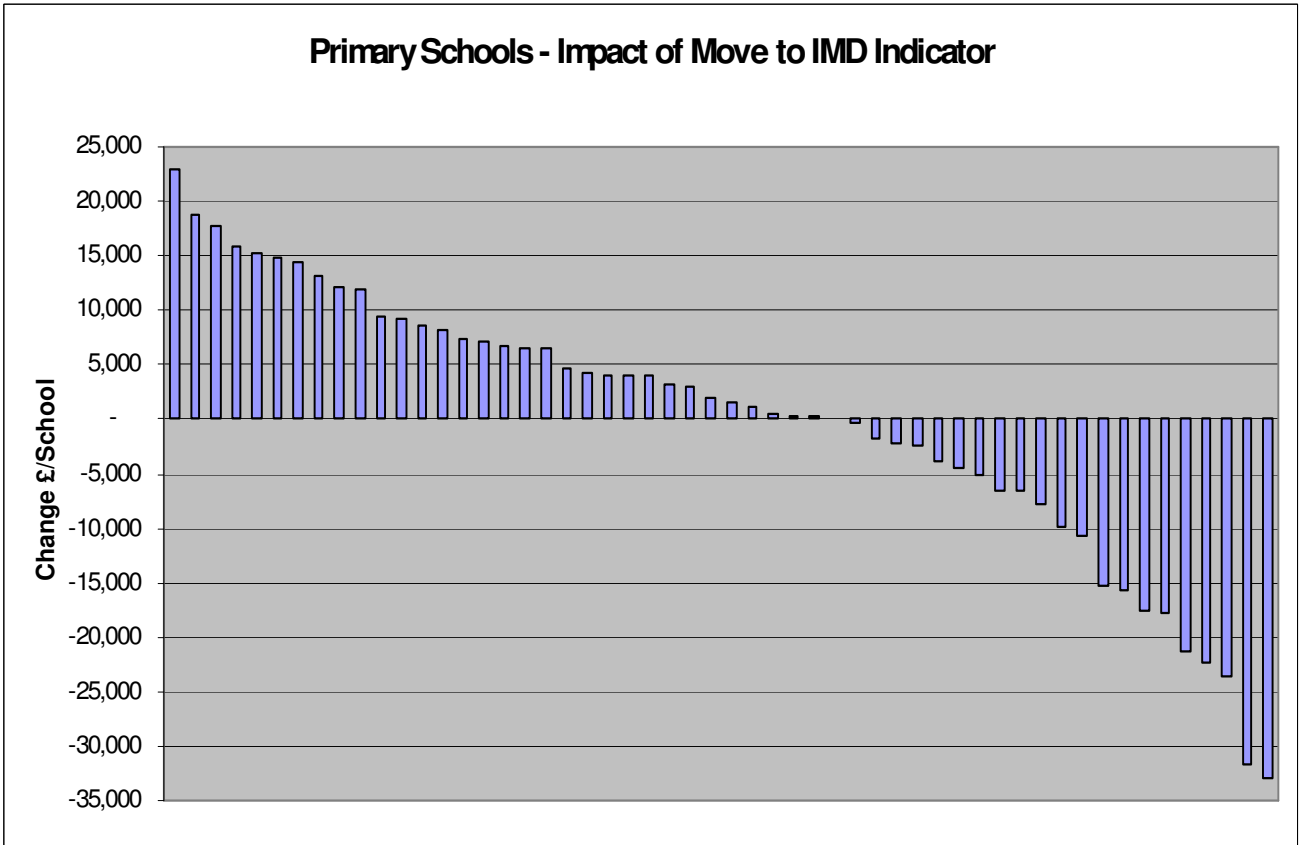
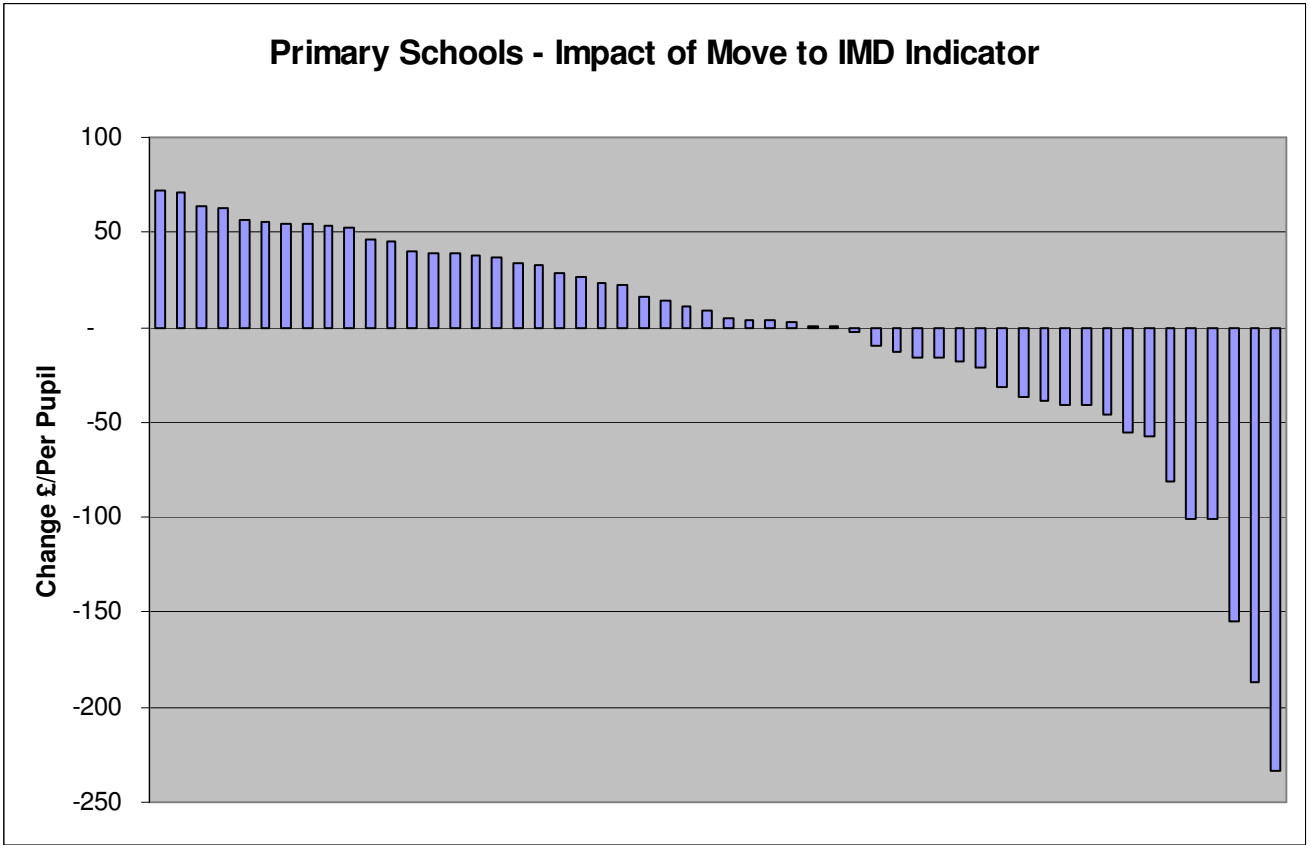
Index of Multiple Deprivation

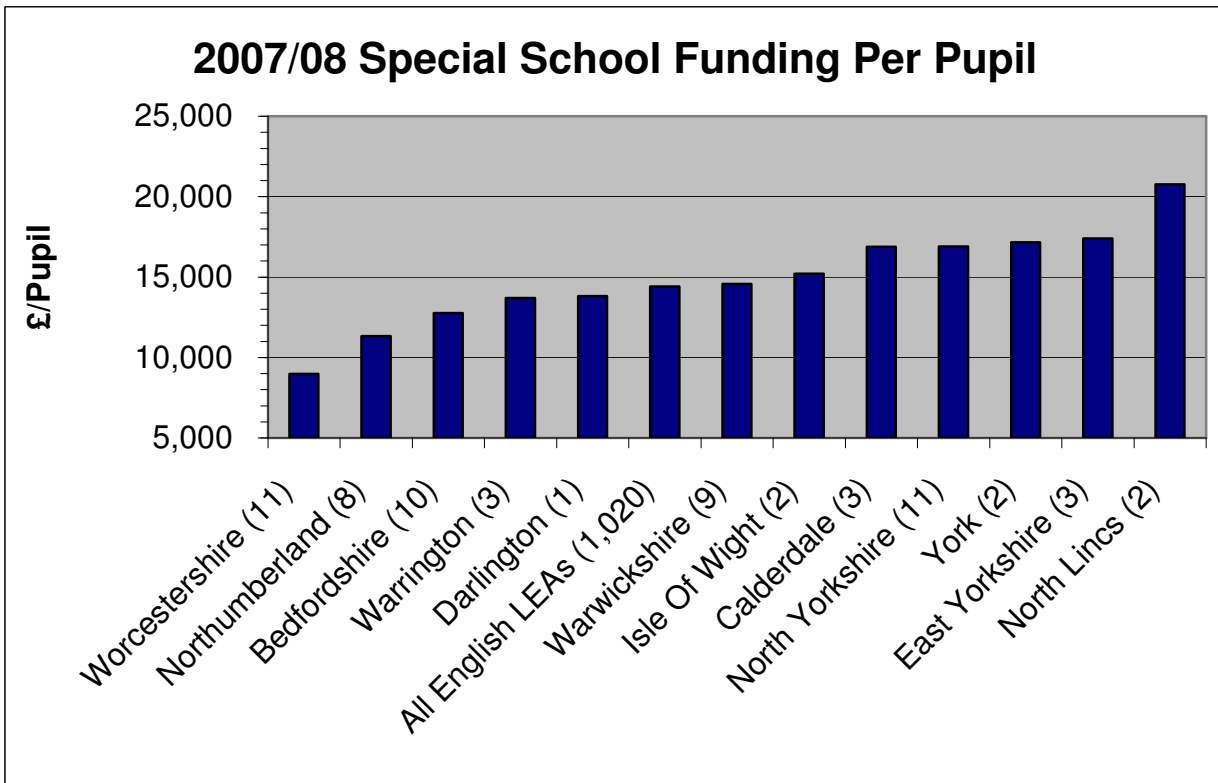
Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>Based on considerable amount of research and extensive consultation in development of the index as a measure of multiple deprivation at small area level, building on earlier work (eg Index of Deprivation 2000 which measured deprivation at ward level).</p> <p>Wide range of deprivation measures included within the index - takes account of deprivation across a range of different factors, not just poverty.</p> <p>Widely known and recognised; available nationally for all SOAs in England, standard across LA boundaries.</p> <p>Used in other national and local government contexts including some resourcing, eg used to inform allocations of the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund.</p> <p>Available at LSOA level, so better than ward level information (previous Index of Deprivation).</p>	<p>Some deprivation measures across the seven domains are not very relevant to education. The focus is on adults/households so some deprivation may reflect eg pensioner poverty and may not be relevant to children.</p> <p>Overall index includes some education measures (average points scores at KS2, KS3, KS4; proportions not staying at school beyond 16 or entering HE; secondary school absence rate). Risk of double counting if used alongside direct prior attainment measures.</p> <p>Most components relate to 2001-2. No current plans to update the index.</p> <p>Index is either a value or a rank for each area from which pupils are drawn; needs to be converted or weighted in some way for use in funding formula.</p> <p>LSOA level may still not be fine enough to identify small pockets of discrimination eg in rural areas or authorities where there is significant variation at street/postcode level.</p>

Source: DCSF Guidance for Authorities September 2006

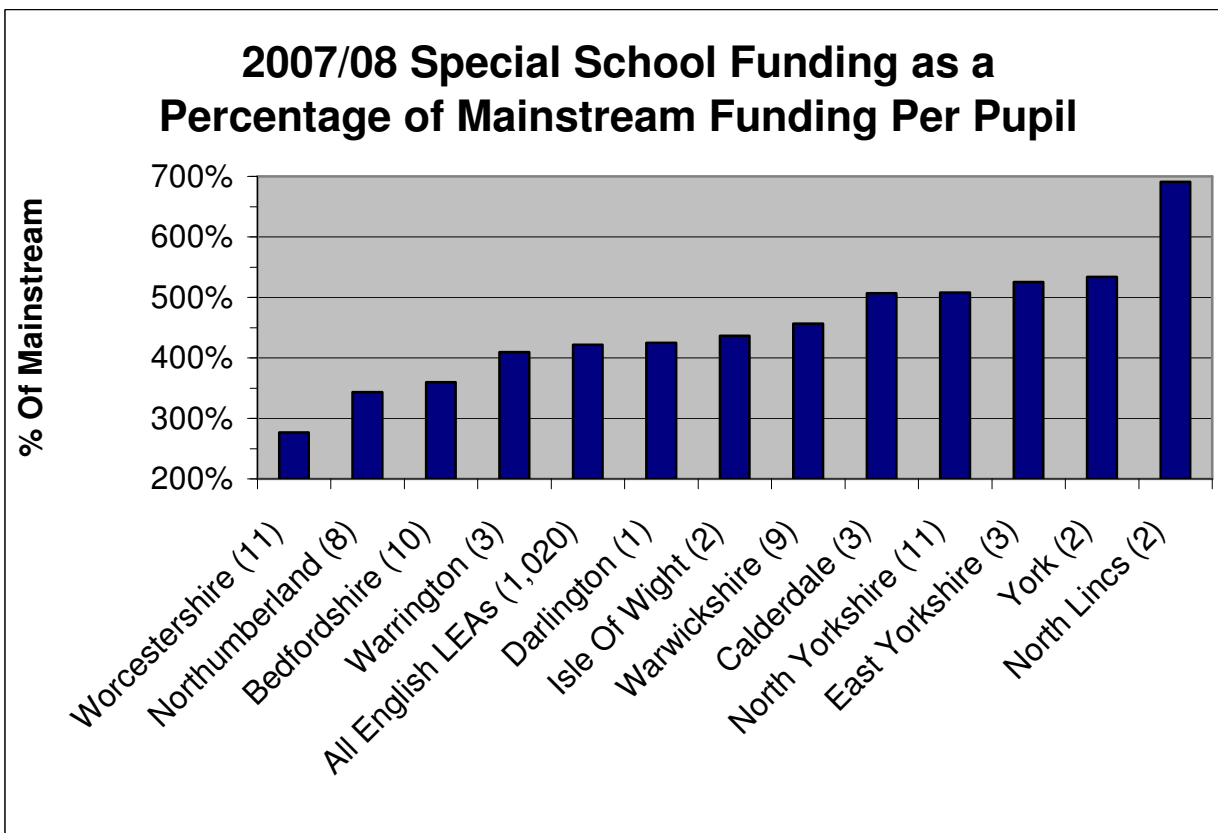




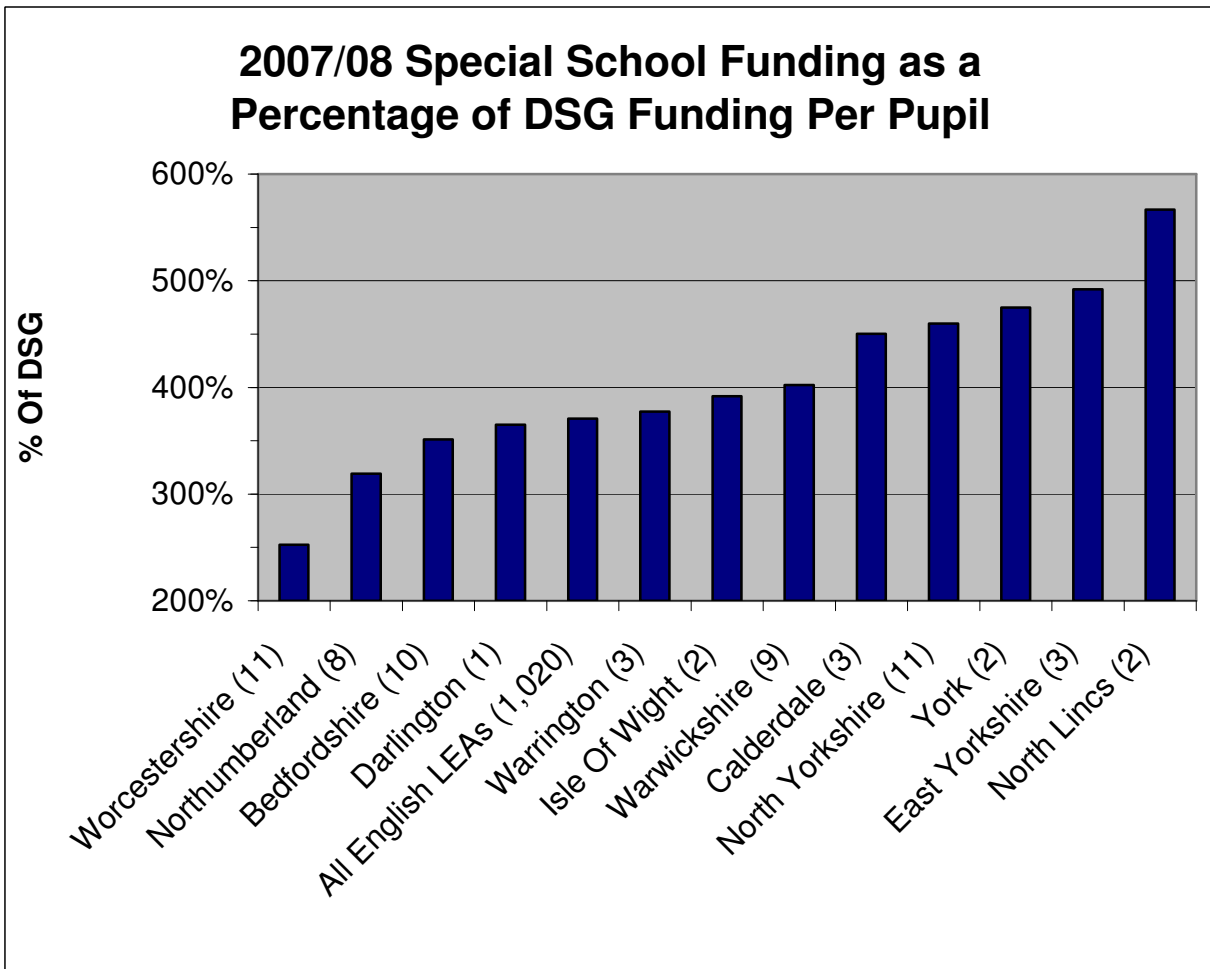




Number of Schools in Brackets

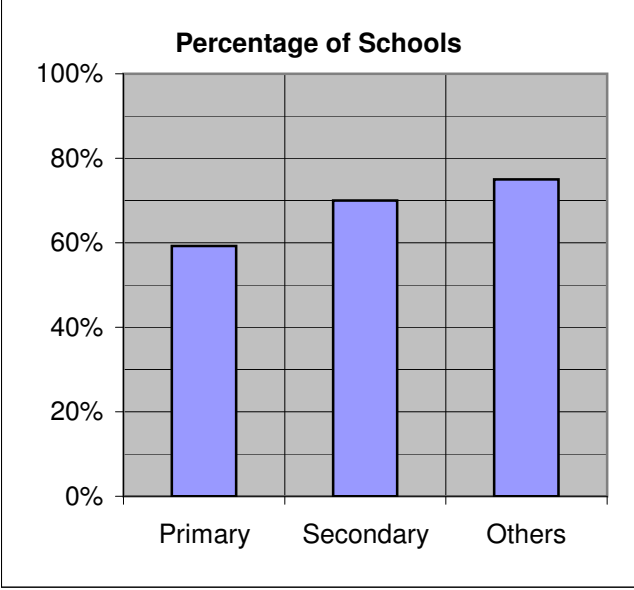
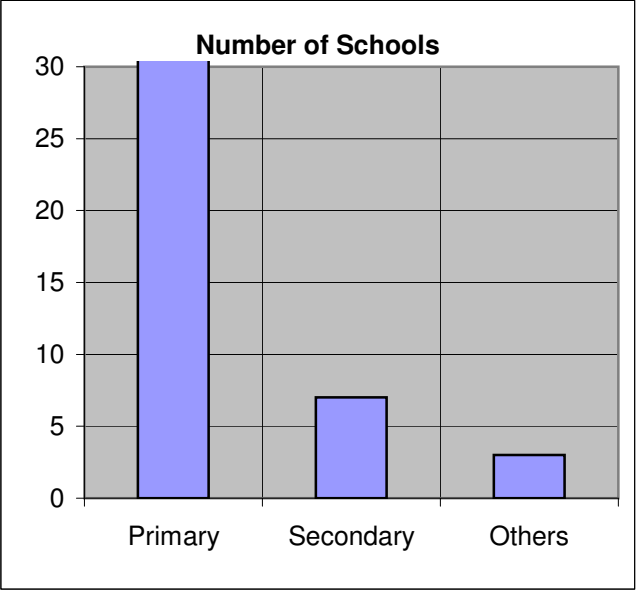


Number of Schools in Brackets



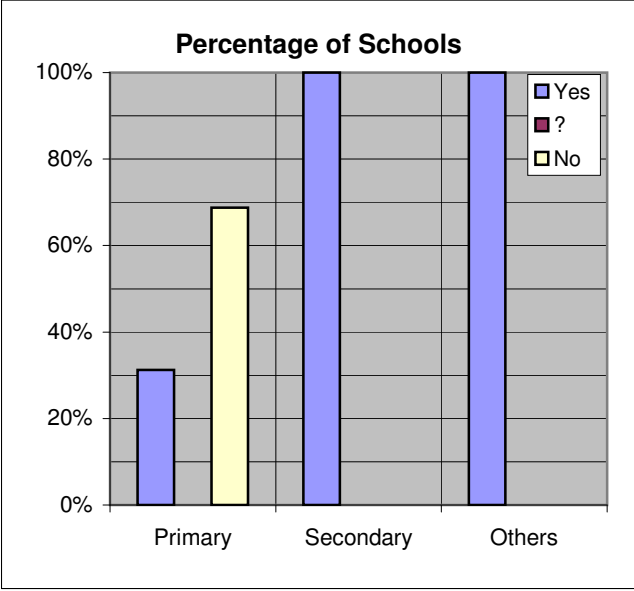
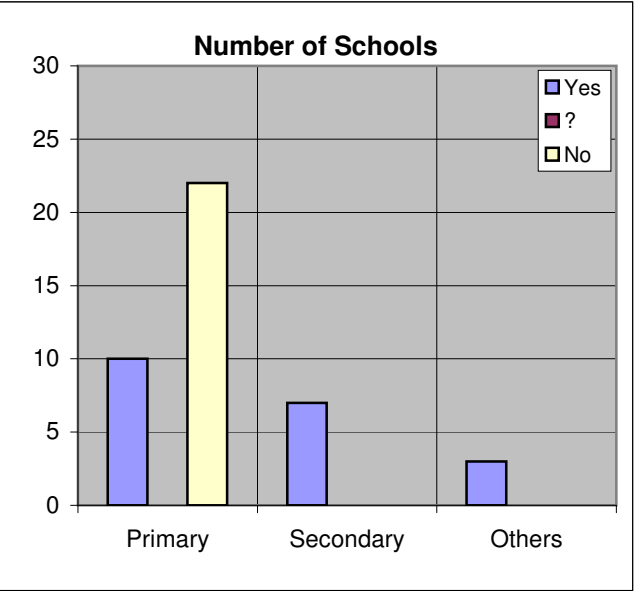
Number of Schools in Brackets

In total 41 schools responded to the consultation an overall response rate of 61.2%. A return was also received form the Governors' Viewpoint Group.



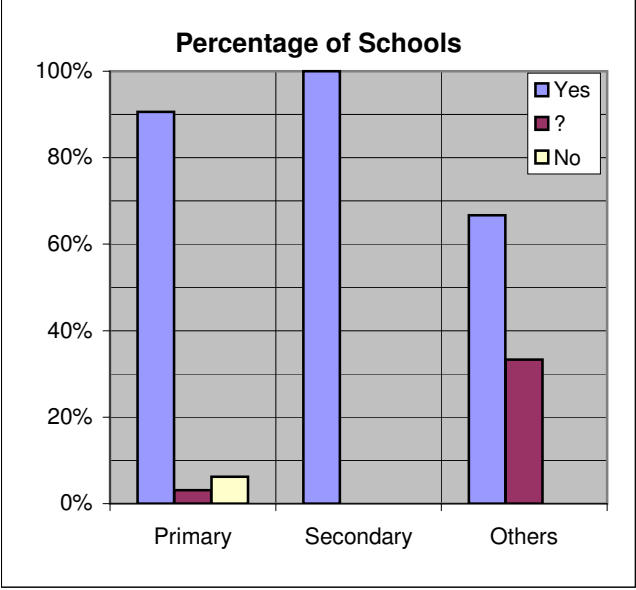
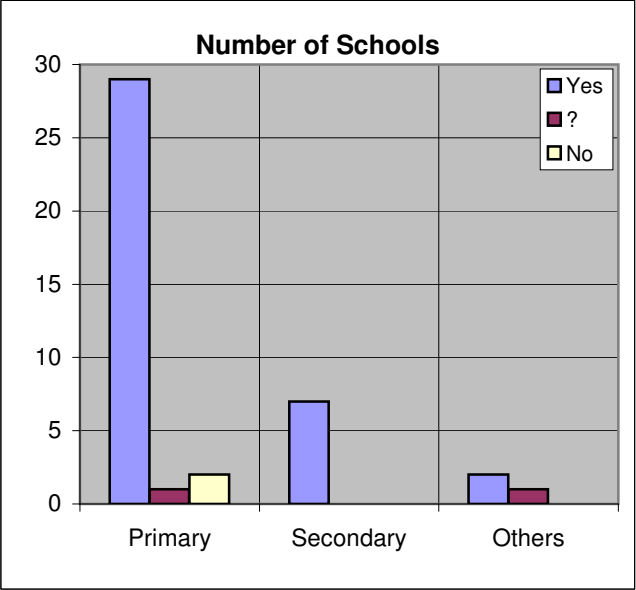
Question 1

Do you agree that the current 2007/08 funding proportions (shown in Annex 2) represent a satisfactory balance of per pupil funding between mainstream primary and secondary schools?



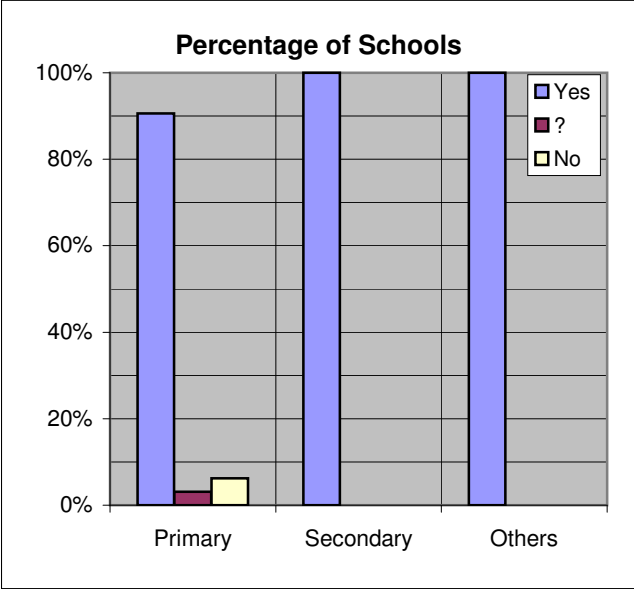
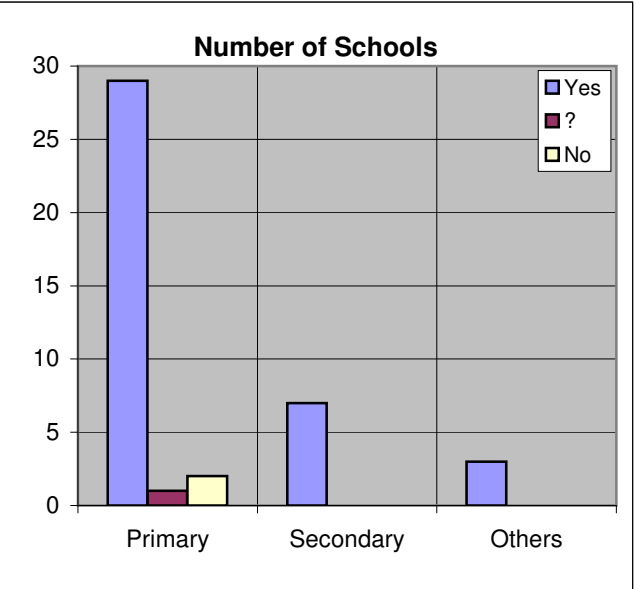
Question 2

Do you agree to the proposal to transfer School Improvement funding in to the LMS Funding Formula from 2008/09 on the basis set out in paragraph 23?



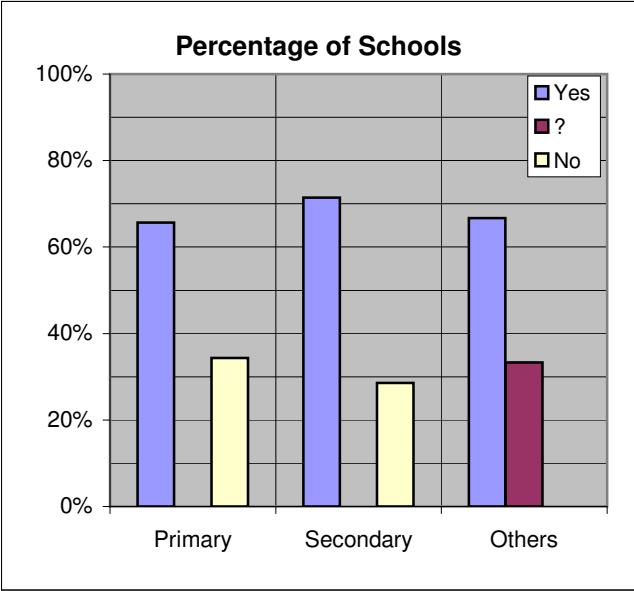
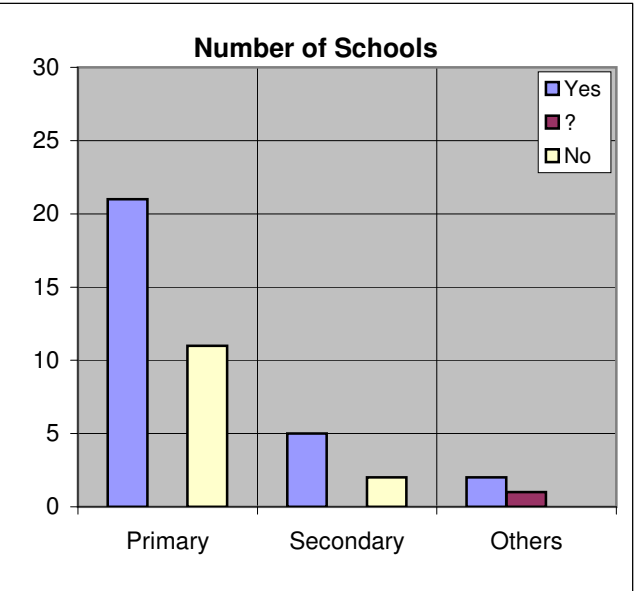
Question 3

Do you agree to the proposal to transfer Newly Qualified Teacher funding in to the LMS Funding Formula from 2008/09 on the basis set out in paragraph 25?



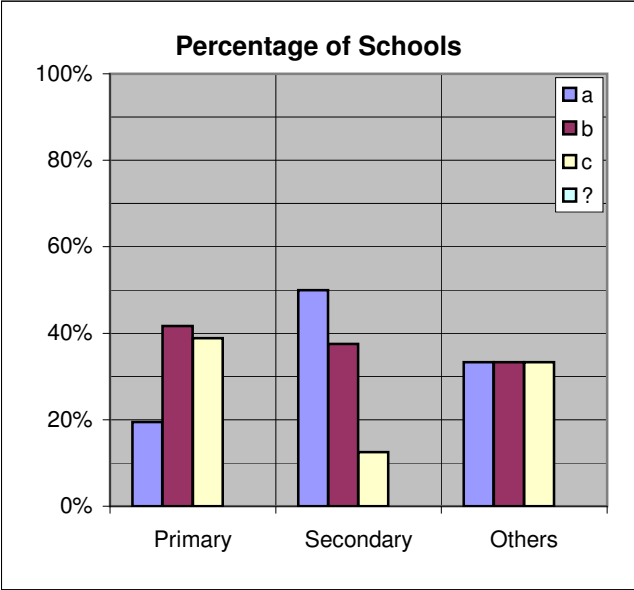
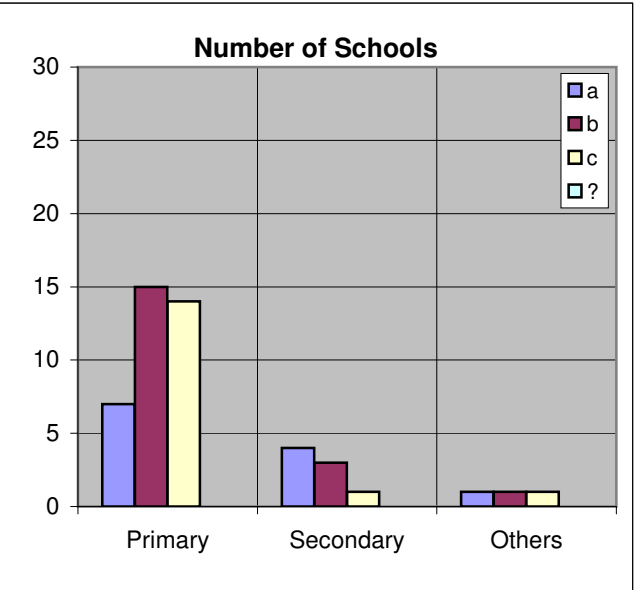
Question 4

Do you agree to the proposals for redistributing per pupil and lump sum funding within the AEN, Non-statemented and Statemented SEN factors as set out at paragraph 36?



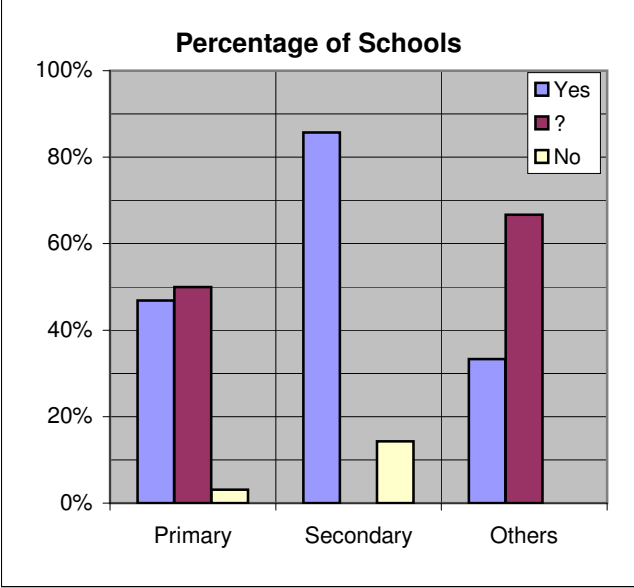
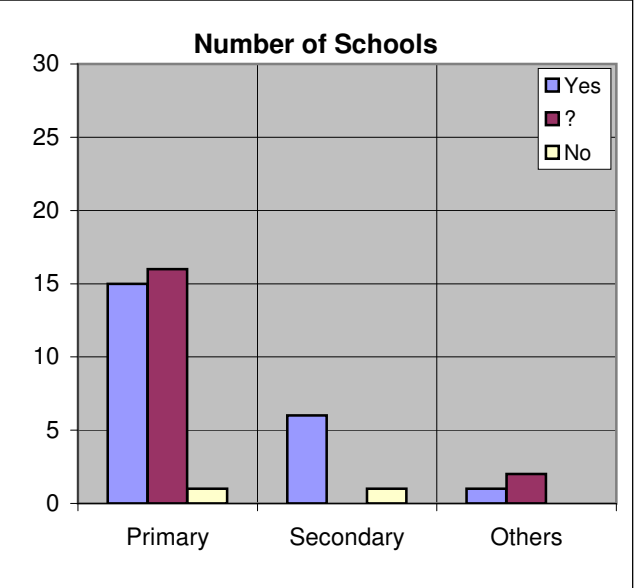
Who should make decisions on the allocation of the SEN Contingency:

- a. Local Authority officers?
- b. A panel of headteachers, supported by officers?
- c. The Schools Forum?



Question 6

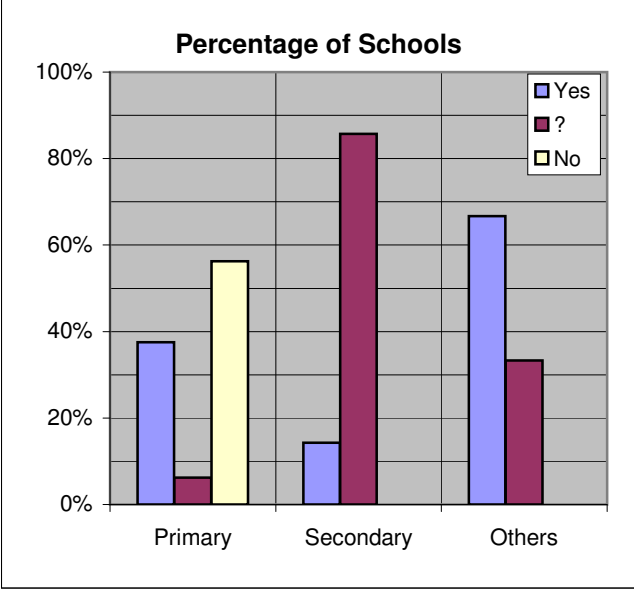
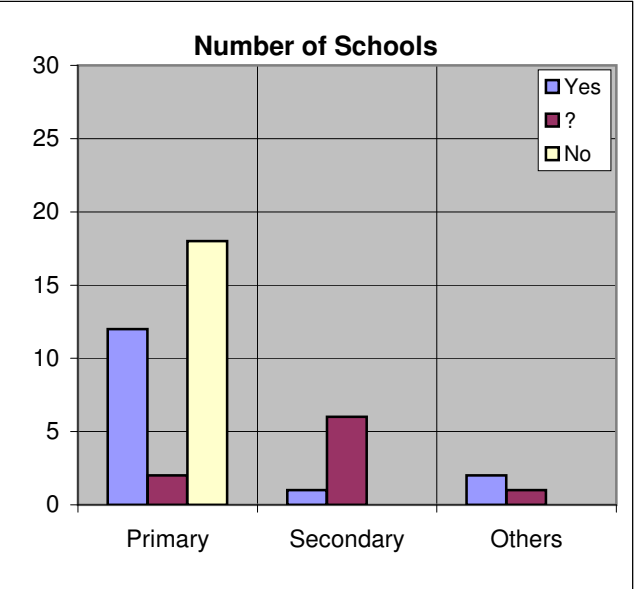
Do you agree that no further changes should be made to the secondary personalisation factor?



Question 7

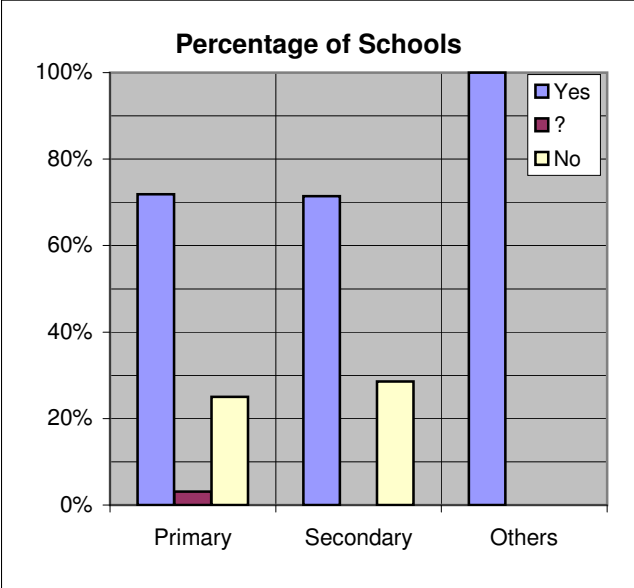
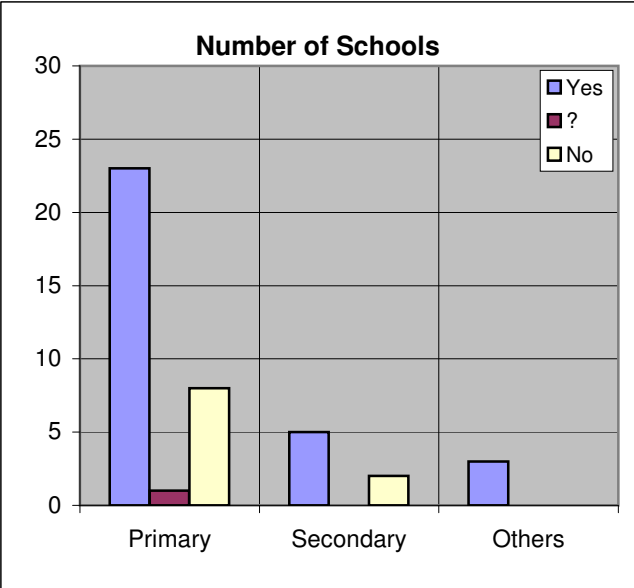
Do you agree that the primary personalisation factor should be changed to allocate funding on the following basis?

- 15% based on pupil numbers
- 15% based a lump sum for each school
- 50% based on low attainment
- 20% based on high attainment



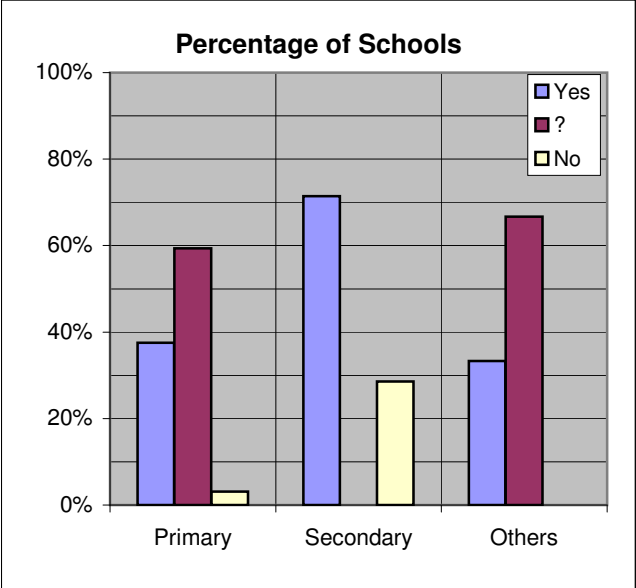
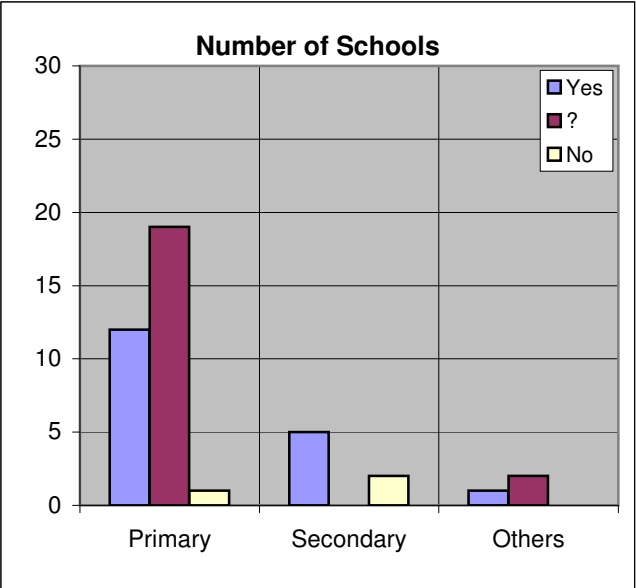
Question 8

Do you agree that any move to using the IMD as a deprivation measure should be delayed until at least April 2011 to allow further research to be undertaken?



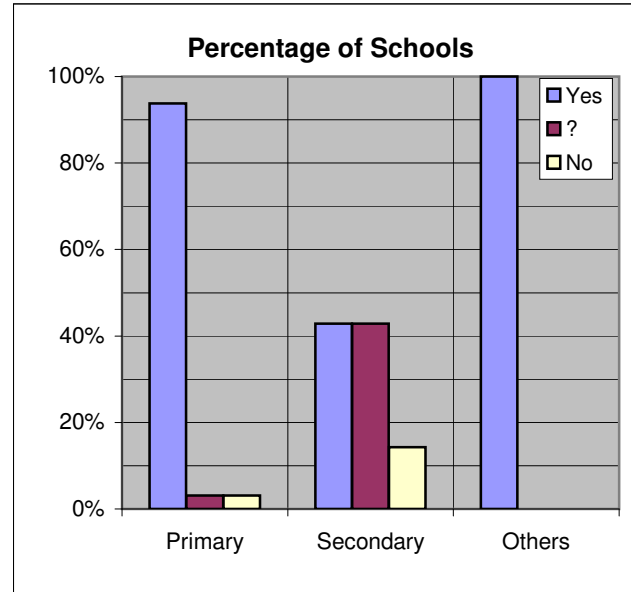
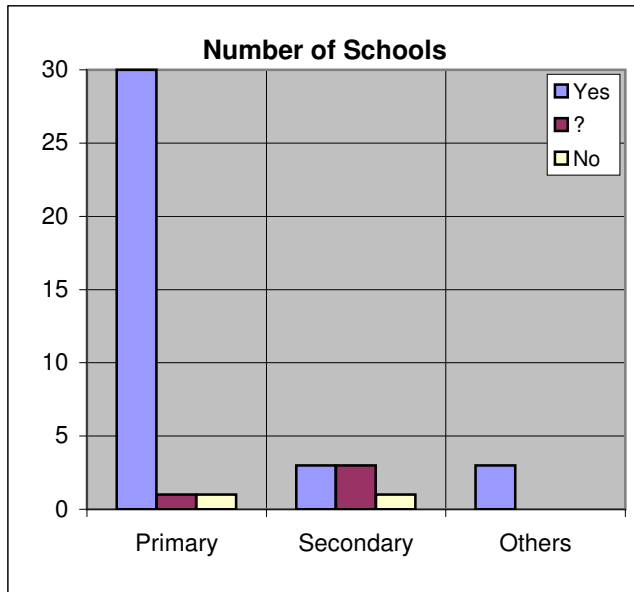
Question 9

Do you agree that Secondary Social Inclusion funding should be merged in to the Non-Statemented SEN factor?



Question 10

Do you agree to presenting prior attainment data within the Statemented SEN factor on the basis of absolute numbers of pupils rather than percentages?



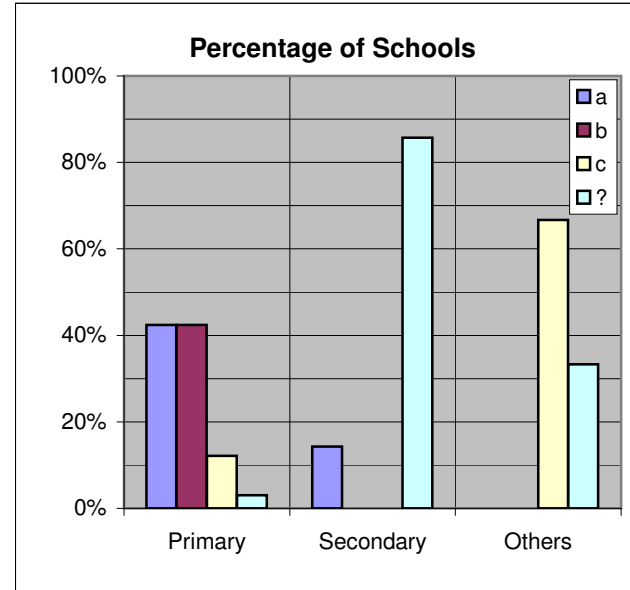
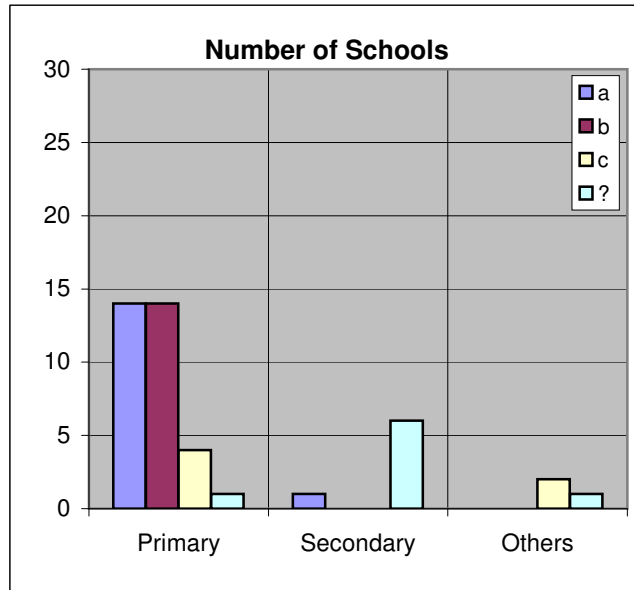
Question 11

Which of the 3 options for Infant Class Size funding set out at paragraphs 66-69 do you support?

a. Retain the current factor?

b. Reallocate all funding to the infant age AWPUs?

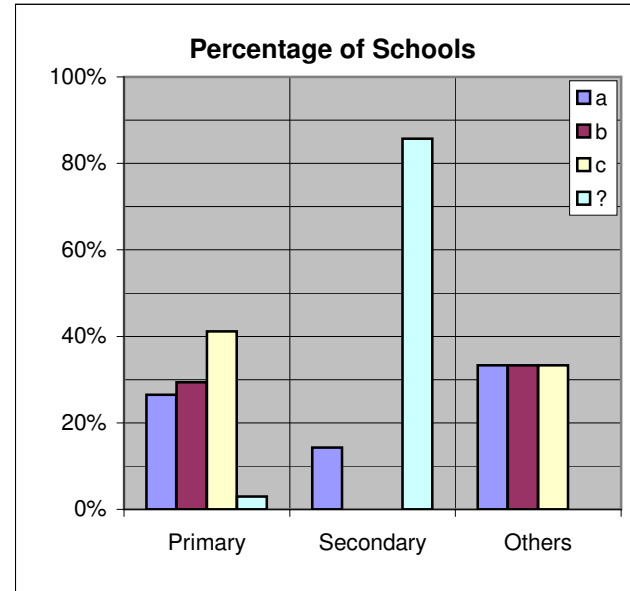
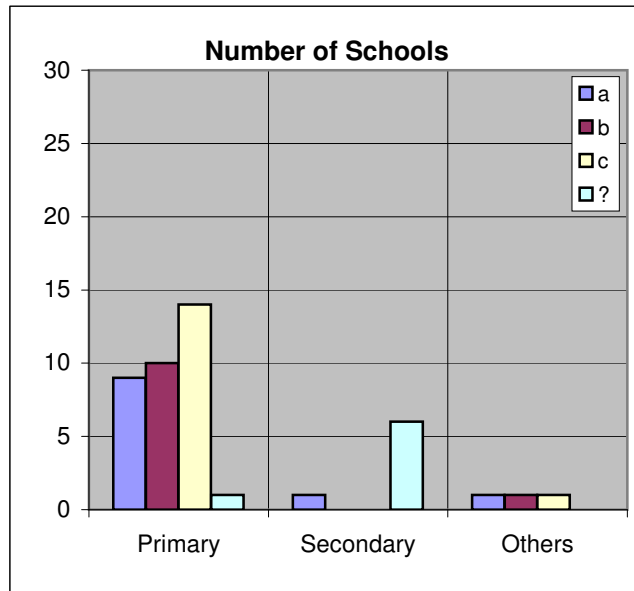
c. £50k ICS contingency with balance to the infant age AWPUs?



Question 12

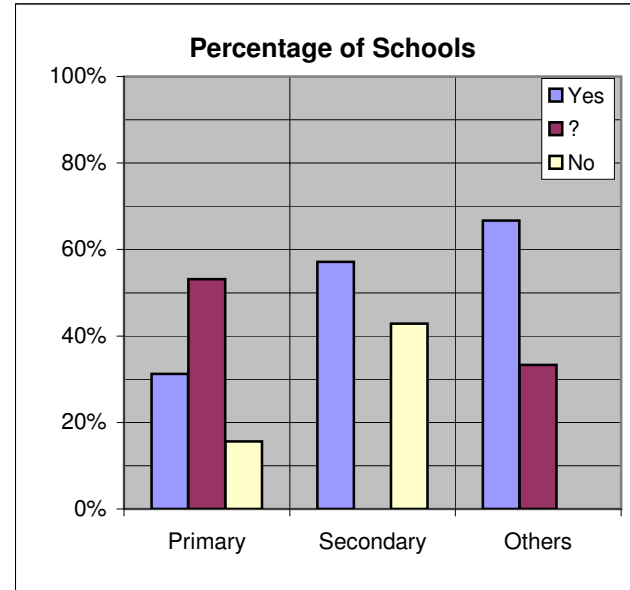
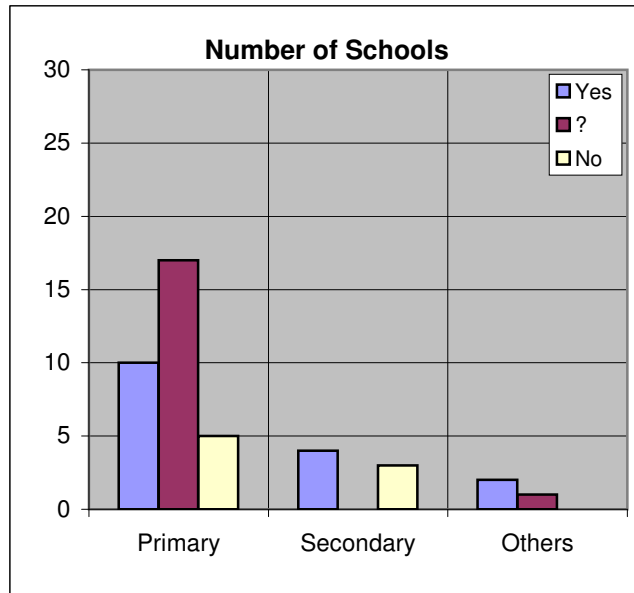
If option 3 were to be implemented, who should make decisions on the allocation of the ICS Contingency:

- a. Local Authority officers?
- b. A panel of headteachers, supported by officers?
- c. The Schools Forum?



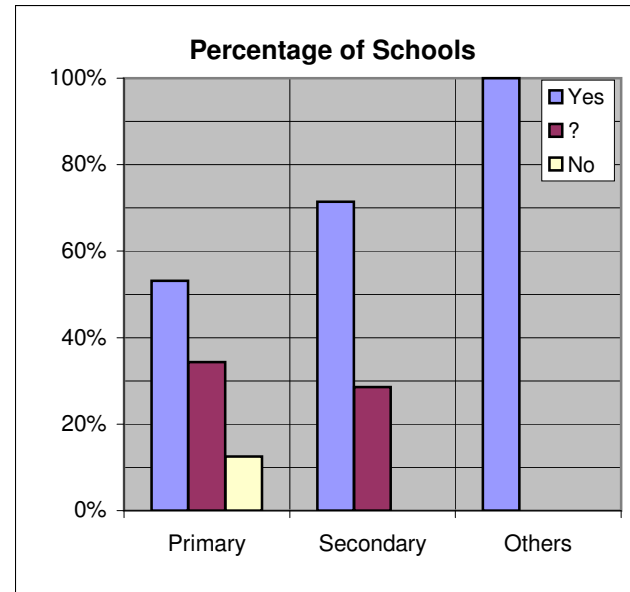
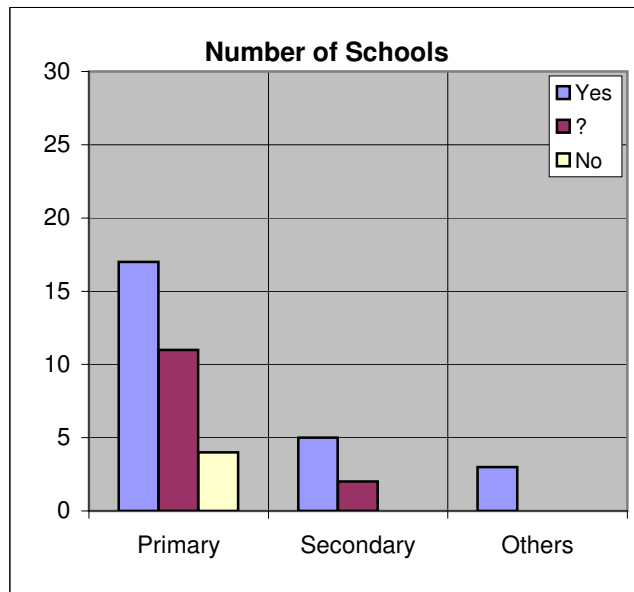
Question 13

Do you agree that a Small Secondary School factor should be introduced as set out at paragraph 74 & 75?



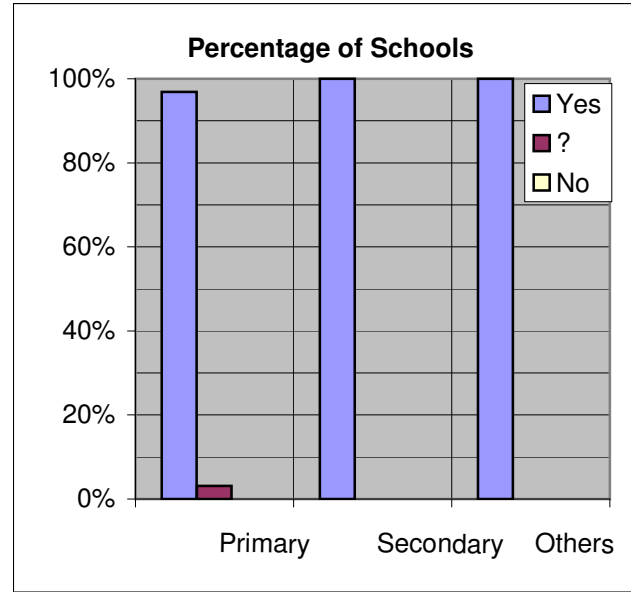
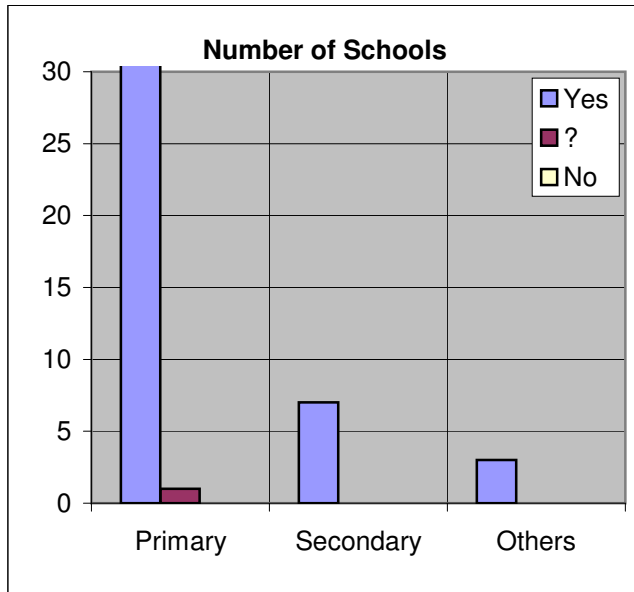
Question 14

Do you agree to the introduction of an age weighted element to the Special School and Enhanced Resource Centre formula funded by reductions in the place values and a redirection of £100k from the centrally held SEN Recoupment budget. (see paragraphs 88 – 92)?



Question 15

Do you agree that the existing ceilings and floors mechanism should continue to be used to smooth the transition to revised funding levels for individual schools?





Meeting of Executive Members Advisory Panel for Children's Services

21 January 2008

Report of the Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services

The Annual Report of the City of York Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Summary

1. The report attached as Annex 1 provides members and the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority with details of the work of the City of York Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) from January to December 2007.

Background

2. Under the provision of the 1988 Education Reform Act every local education authority has a responsibility to establish a permanent body, called a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), together with an occasional body, called an Agreed Syllabus Conference. The SACRE produces an annual report which describes its membership and activities during the year.

Consultation

3. Not applicable to the annual report of the SACRE

Options

4. Not applicable to the annual report of the SACRE

Analysis

5. Not applicable to the annual report of the SACRE

Corporate Priorities

6. The work of the SACRE contributes to the following priorities of the Council:

Improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and families in the city.

Increase people's skills and knowledge to improve future employment prospects.

Implications

7. There are no known financial, legal, human resources equalities or other implications arising from the annual report of SACRE.

Risk Management

8. In compliance with the Councils risk management strategy. There are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

Recommendations

9. Members are asked to note the Annual Report of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education.

Reason; Members of SACRE have requested that the annual report be presented to EMAP.

Contact Details

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Report Approved

Date 07 January 2008

Specialist Implications - None

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annex A

The Annual Report of the City of York Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)



December 2007

The Annual Report of the City of York
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Summary

This report provides members and QCA with details of the work of the City of York Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) from January to December 2007.

1. Background

Under the provision of the 1988 Education Reform Act every local education authority has a responsibility to establish a permanent body, called a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), together with an occasional body, called an Agreed Syllabus Conference.

2. Membership

The people who serve on SACREs are invited to do so by the Director of Learning Culture and Children's Services on the recommendation of various bodies in the local community with a concern for the religious education of school children. The law prescribes that there have to be four "committees" each comprising representatives of specified groups. Those four committees can together co-opt further non-voting members, provided a majority are in agreement. The actual members change over time and the current SACRE is constituted as follows:-

Representing the City of York Council Councillors:-

Carol Runciman	Keith Aspden
Christina Funnell	Roger Pierce

Representing the Church of England:-

David Sellick	Olive Wordsworth
Sharon Whittington	Julia Fletcher

Representing Other Denominations / Faith Communities:-

Sr Mary Walmsley (Roman Catholic)
Ann M Vaughan (Methodist)
Sarah Allen (Religious Society of Friends) (Vice Chair)
Robert Huey (Salvation Army)

Daryoush Mazloun (York Baha'i Community)

Representing Teachers:-

Jane Atkinson

Brian Rees (resigned Oct 2007) Jane Stinson

Co-opted:-

Mick Phythian (Humanist; Chair)

Roderic Vassie (Muslim)

Marlene Sender (Jewish)

Shabana Jabbar (Head of RE, York High)

In attendance:-

Sue Foster (Senior Education Development Adviser)

Angela Instone (Clerk)

Anna Lewis (York CollegeTertiary)

3. Religious Education

The City of York SACRE was established during the autumn term 1996 and held its first meeting on 15 January 1997. At this meeting, members of SACRE agreed unanimously to adopt the North Yorkshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. In November 2002, following the statutory quinquennial review the LEA accepted SACRE's recommendation to adopt the recent East Riding Agreed Syllabus, with suitable modifications appropriate for the City of York. The Agreed Syllabus is now established across all schools in the LA. The SACRE has set up an Agreed Syllabus Conference to review the current syllabus. This group includes members of SACRE together with RE subject leaders from both primary and secondary schools.

4. Collective Worship

Besides Religious Education each local authority must work with its SACRE to monitor the provision of daily collective worship. As a result of changes to the Ofsted framework from 2005 and the absence of further guidance, the City of York SACRE is currently compiling guidance to support Collective Worship in schools in the City. This piece of work is being led by the Chair and includes the Senior Adviser for RE and two members of SACRE.

5. Support for Schools

Members of SACRE are keen to support staff in schools to raise standards in RE and have been kept up to date with the strategies to achieve this through reports from the Senior Education Development Adviser, with responsibility for RE and Collective Worship, covering such topics as:-

Support for RE Co-ordinators through the primary and secondary Curriculum Support Groups as they work together to implement the Syllabus.

RE Adviser working with schools to develop RE and Collective Worship.
 Some members of SACRE are on a sub-committee of the City of York's Executive Member for Children's Services Advisory Panel (EMAP) and note what comments Ofsted Inspection Teams make on Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Development following an inspection. When attending this sub-committee Heads and Chairs of Governors are generally asked to comment about the contribution of RE, Collective Worship and SMSC to the fostering of the ethos of their school.
 In service training (INSET) specifically to enable teachers to move to implementation of the new Agreed Syllabus
 Briefings in the form of newsletters have also been distributed during this reporting year.

SACRE is supporting the work of the Yorkshire and Humberside Global Schools' Association in relation to Citizenship and understanding of religions in society.

SACRE is supporting the work of the Yorkshire & Humber Faiths Forum.

Support is also available for working with BME pupils and Travellers from the LA officers with lead responsibility for these areas. Courses are provided as well as resources and bespoke training on related issues.

6. Religious Sensitivities

The SACRE is working with CYC Learning, Culture and Children's Services department to establish a guidelines document to support its duty to promote community cohesion.

7. NASACRE

The SACRE continues to be actively involved with national events in RE.

8. Analysis of Examination Results for Religious Studies/Education Summer 2007

Two of the four 11-18 schools together with York College (Tertiary) entered students for AS and A level examinations

A2 Level	Entries	A	B	C	D	E	N	Total
All Saints	12	6	5	1				100%
Fulford	4		1	3				100%
York College	17	5	4	4	3	2		100%
AS Level Entries		A	B	C	D	E	N	Total
All Saints	3	2	1					100%
Fulford	2	2						100%
York College	30	8	6	6	4	3	3	90%

These results were well above the national benchmarks at both AS and A2 level in all three institutions.

Full GCSE

8 schools entered 515 students with 79% achieving A*-C grades and 99% achieving A*-G. This is an interesting development since 2000 when only the Voluntary Aided (VA) schools entered students for the full GCSE courses.

Short Course GCSE

8 schools entered 1036 students with 56.9% achieving A*-C grades and 96.2% achieving the A*-G grades. Four of the schools entered virtually the whole cohort so that in York for most students they do have the opportunity to gain an accreditation either full or short course GCSE in Religious Studies or Religious Education. One school also entered 27 pupils for Entry Level Qualification (ELQ) Band C qualification and all of them passed. The one school yet to enter a cohort is to do so in 2008 giving all students in York a chance for a national accreditation after 11 years of compulsory RE lessons.

Overall the 2007 results are very pleasing both in GCSE and Advanced GCE. Many more young people are able to study the subject to GCSE, the challenge in York now is to increase the numbers going on to study at Advanced level. York College is doing very well and has increased its numbers significantly over the last three years with large cohorts achieving the high grades. Many of the students transfer from York's 11-16 schools. The 11-18 schools are to be encouraged and supported to offer RS as a subject post-16 and to target the take-up.

9. Methods of Teaching

In the last year SACRE has not made any specific recommendations concerning teaching methods, choice of teaching materials or teacher training, though the Education Development Service has provided support for pedagogy via the Primary and the KS3 National Strategies. The Agreed Syllabus provides a comprehensive framework for teaching and learning and assessment of pupils' knowledge and understanding of religions. Resources are available for all teachers in York for the teaching of RE from the York St John University's David Hope RE Centre and for cultural diversity and global education from the Centre for Global Education (also at the university).

10. Complaints regarding the teaching of RE

None were made to SACRE during this reporting year.

11. Determinations

From time to time a school may request from the SACRE a "determination"; i.e. permission to waive the legal requirements for religious education and collective worship. The SACRE has received no requests for determinations during this reporting year.

12. Complaints regarding Collective Worship

None were made to the SACRE during this reporting year.

13. SACRE Initiatives

The SACRE is working on guidance for Collective Worship and participating in the development of cultural and religious diversity guidelines already being prepared by the Council to address the community cohesion agenda.

Report produced by Mick Phythian; Chair. Sue Foster; Senior Education Adviser. Sarah Allen; Vice Chair.

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