

Schools Forum – 18th January 2024

Update to the Staffordshire Scheme for Financing Schools

Recommendation

1. The Schools Forum approves the revised Staffordshire Scheme for Financing Schools (SSFS).

Report of the Director for Children and Families:

PART A

Why is it coming here – what decision is required?

2. Any amendments to the SSFS, Financial Regulations for Schools and Procurement Regulations require approval from Schools Forum.

Reasons for recommendation

3. The SSFS has been reviewed and updated.

PART B

Background:

4. Section 2.15 Notice of Concern previously referred to the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People, this has been amended to refer to the Director for Children and Families only.
5. The list of reasons a Notice of Concern will be issued has been amended. The first bullet point now reads:
 - When years two and three of the school's published multiyear modeller indicate the school cannot operate within their in-year funding, and reserves are not sustainable.
6. Two bullet points stating why a Notice of Concern should be issued have been removed, these are:
 - Revenue Deficits where there is no recovery plan
 - Failure to set an in year balanced budget by 31st May
7. Further detail has been provided, stating the actions the authority may take when a governing body fails to comply with a Notice of Concern. This reads:

Where a governing body fails to comply with the Notice of Concern, the authority may issue a warning notice to a school as set out in the [Schools causing concern statutory guidance for local authorities and regional directors](#). When a school does then not comply with their warning notice, it will become eligible for intervention within the meaning of Part 4 of the Education and Inspections 2006 Act. In this situation, there are a number of statutory powers the local authority may use, these include:

- the power to require the governing body to enter into arrangements
- the power to appoint additional governors
- the power to appoint an interim executive board (IEB)
- the power to suspend the delegated budget

8. The Director of Corporate Services has been changed to the Director of Finance Services.
9. In Section 4.9 Licensed Deficit Scheme, the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities has been changed to the Director for Children and Families only.

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