

Formula Funding Review – Outcome of Schools Consultation

1. Introduction

This paper provides a summary of the responses and comments received by stakeholders in response to the 'Schools, Early Years and High Needs Special Educational Needs (SEN) Funding Arrangements 2014/15' Consultation which took place between 8th and 17th October 2013.

2. Recommendations

Schools Forum is recommended to take the following action:

- a) Note the comments and responses by schools
- b) Decide which funding model should be submitted to the EFA on 31st October.

3. Consultation Feedback

In total, 25 responses were received. The breakdown was 13 responses from the Primary sector, 9 from Secondary, 1 from Special, and a response from each of HASH and Primary Forum. The question stakeholders were asked to respond to was:

Stakeholders are asked to give views on the proposed changes to the school funding formula as set out in Section 5, which need to be considered as a package. Schools Forum are proposing option 2 as the preferred model which sets the rate of per pupil funding for Deprivation and for EAL broadly in line with the national average and the ratio of per pupil funding between primary and secondary in line with the national average ratio of 1 to 1.29.

Two funding models were presented as part of the consultation, in summary these were

- Option 1 – implementing the DfE's required changes only,
- Option 2 – implementing the DfE's required changes, changing the unit value for EAL and Deprivation to the national average, and manipulating the AWPU to create an overall Primary: Secondary ratio of 1:1.29

Stakeholders were asked their opinion on accepting Schools Forum's preferred funding model. The following table summarises the responses received from schools:

Response	Numbers	%
Agree	17	68.0%
Disagree	8	32.0%
Do not know	0	0.00%
Totals	25	100.0%

The 'Agree' votes came from 12 Primary schools, Primary Forum, 3 Secondary schools and 1 Special school. The 'Disagree' votes came from 6 Secondary Schools, HASH and 1 Primary school.

Appendix A to this paper shows the detail of these responses, including comments made by stakeholders for consideration

Summary

It can be concluded that the majority of respondents are in favour of implementing Schools Forum's preferred funding model. However, it should be noted that the proportion of those disagreeing to the proposal is high, 32% of the total responses. There also appears to be a clear split between Primary Forum and HASH, with each representative group voting for the option that provides them with the best resource movement (Option 1 for Secondary and Option 2 for Primary).