



Northumberland County Council

Agenda Item 8

Formula Funding Committee, Schools Forum **National Funding Formula information**

1. Purpose of the Report

To provide further additional information in respect of the continuing implementation of the National Funding Formula and associated 2019/20 Schools Funding information.

2. Recommendations

Schools Forum FFC are asked to consider the attached information and provide commentary feedback as to any potential implications with regard to the 2019/20 Schools Funding Values. In particular any principles or priorities in relation to the establishment of the 2019/20 formula values would be helpful.

- F40 bulletin previously circulated under Communications;
- Comparison of Formula Funding Values used in 2018/19 by the 12 NE region local authorities and Cumbria (See File NE Formula Values Analysis 2018-19.
- INDICATIVE 2019/20 School Funding figures on an individual Northumberland school basis

Plus links to:

2019/20 Schools Revenue Funding Operational Guide:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pre-16-schools-funding-guidance-for-2019-to-2020>

3. Background

Schools Forum should be aware of the key reasons why the DfE introduced the National Funding Formula:

- to make the funding formula fairer
- to make the funding formula more transparent
- to ensure that each child, with the same level of need, attracts the same level of funding, regardless of where they live

Initial guidance in 2017 suggested 2 transitional years in 2018/19 & 2019/20, with a move to a “hard” NFF with effect from 2020/21. Latest guidance from the DfE indicates that the transitional period will extend to include 2020/21 with the hard NFF being introduced from 2021/22 at the earliest, subject to the outcome of the next Comprehensive Spending Review.

The important caveats made previously in relation to indicative or notional figures, based on notional NFF for 2018/19 are again emphasised:

- In respect of some values NCC exceeded NFF rates for 2018/19 therefore hence discrepancies between actual 2018/19 and notional 2019/20 levels despite being based on the same pupil numbers.
- Pupil numbers are key; actual 2019/20 funding is based on October 2018 School census data and so will be different from the notional 2019/20 per School figures provided.

- Local authorities continue to retain some discretion in relation to School funding in their area; the implementation of the hard NFF has been postponed a further 12 months until 2021/22 at the earliest following the next Comprehensive Spending Review.
- Interim capping and scaling arrangements are in place which serves at this point to taper the impact of any significant changes in school funding arising from the National Funding Formula. The figures in the final column providing illustrative figures if the NFF had been fully implemented do not reflect any of these interim arrangements in the system and therefore should be treated with caution.

4. Summary and Conclusions :

After consideration of the respective formula funding values adopted by Northumberland and the other 11 NE Authorities, plus Cumbria, initial comments suggested that in principle they believed any additional funding for distribution should consider the Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) as the method for distribution in line with the idea that funding should largely be “pupil led”

- 5.** Key dates are also attached for your information.

Bruce Parvin

Education and Skills Funding Manager

19 September 2018



Northumberland County Council

KEY DATES:

Date	DfE or ESFA activity	Local authority activity
September 2018	High needs funding operational guide for 2019 to 2020 issued to local authorities. Further information to illustrate 2019 to 2020 growth allocations will be provided to local authorities.	
28 September 2018		Deadline for submitting requests (for response by December) for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MFG exclusions• exceptional premises factors• sparsity factors• lump sum variations for amalgamating schools• pupil number reductions
4 October 2018	School census day.	School census day.
October to November 2018	Check and validate school census.	Check and validate school census.
20 November 2018		Deadline for submitting requests (for response by the APT deadline) for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MFG exclusions• exceptional premises factors• sparsity factors• lump sum variations for amalgamating schools• pupil number reductions
28 November 2018	School census database closed.	
30 November 2018		Deadline for submitting requests for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• movement of funding out of the schools block which is above the limit of 0.5%, or which the schools forum has

		not approved, or both
Mid-December 2018	Final APT issued to local authorities, containing October 2018 census-based pupil data and factors. Publication of 2019 to 2020 DSG schools block (prior to academies recoupment), central school services block and revised high needs block allocations for 2019 to 2020.	
Late 2018	Publication of initial early years block allocations.	
Mid-January 2019		Schools forum consultation and political approval required for final 2019 to 2020 funding formula.
21 January 2019		Deadline for submission of final 2019 to 2020 APT to ESFA.
28 February 2019		Deadline for confirmation of schools budget shares to mainstream maintained schools.
February to March 2019	2019 to 2020 allocation statements issued to post-16 institutions, academies, and NMSS.	
February 2019	Publication of 2019 to 2020 high needs place numbers at institution level.	
29 March 2019	Confirmation of 2019 to 2020 general annual grant for academies open by 9 January 2019.	
April 2019	First DSG payments to local authorities based on 2019 to 2020 allocations, including academies recoupment (DSG allocations updated termly for in-year academy conversions), FE high needs place funding deductions, and other adjustments.	