

REPORT TO: Education Committee

MEETING DATE: 21 March 2023

BY: Executive Director for Education and Children's Service

SUBJECT: Update to the Scheme of Devolved School Management

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the findings of two short life working groups arising from changes to the Devolved School Management (DSM) national guidance, effective from 1 April 2022 and as reported to Education Committee on 21 June 2022.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note:-
- i. The findings of the Primary management structures working group which has agreed that no substantial changes to the financial methodology of the DSM scheme in respect of management structures in Primary Schools be adopted from April 2023. This will be kept under review pending the impact of any recommendations by the Additional Support Needs (ASN) working group should there be any significant change to the funding to schools.
 - ii. The findings of the ASN working group which agreed to the principle of changing the methodology used to determine the allocation of predictable needs funding to reflect roll and ASN percentage measures. The mechanism to implement this change in methodology would require a moderated process and a workforce plan to manage the staff resources. It is therefore not recommended to implement this from April 2023, but to work towards a change for April 2024.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A report was submitted to the Committee in June 2022 in respect of the review of DSM guidance to encourage greater transparency in the financial decisions both at local authority level (what is devolved and what is not) and at school level.
- 3.2 As a result of the collaborative work undertaken with Head Teachers, education officers, Trade Union representatives and officers from other Council service areas to review and update our DSM in line with new national guidance, a report was submitted to Committee that demonstrated changes to our scheme aligned with the expectations from Scottish Government. The majority of the existing DSM scheme was agreed as still fit for purpose and required little updating. There was no change to areas to be devolved to schools from April 2022.
- 3.3 As part of the review of our guidance it was agreed that two strands of the revised DSM scheme were identified as requiring a “deeper dive” by two focussed short life working groups to look at the impact of alternative methodology and make recommendations in relation to management structures and ASN funding allocations. This work took place between June 2022 and February 2023.
- 3.4 The working group on Primary School Management structures identified and modelled 12 potential changed approaches:
- a) 8 of the models were not cost neutral and in the current financial climate cannot be taken forward to consultation with all Head Teachers;
 - b) 2 models were cost neutral but would require restructuring and/or redeployment of current management roles, incurring potential conservation costs for 3 years;
 - c) 1 model would require common timetabling to allow Principal Teacher release to work collaboratively across a cluster, and is being further considered by Head Teachers of the practicalities;
 - d) 1 model would require large schools having reduced funding to realign management time to smaller schools with no Depute Head Teacher management time allocation which would create a redeployment and/or conservation cost.
- 3.5 The working group looking at the Additional Support Needs (ASN) funding allocation identified the following:
- a) The current model of ASN funding allocation, determined by Free School Meal entitlement, no longer reflects current needs. The working group agreed that the funding model should be changed to reflect a measure of children/young people with Additional Support Needs in each school.
 - b) Annually, each school in Scotland is required to submit to Scottish Government the number of children/young people in their school with an ASN through the SEEMIS management system. There is national

guidance regarding this measure and clearly defined categories of ASN. The group agreed that this measure would be the most appropriate to use in the new funding model.

- c) Currently the SEEMIS recorded number of children/young people in each school with an ASN is not moderated within East Lothian. The group agreed that annual moderation would be required within the new model to ensure consistency and equity across schools.
- d) The new model may lead to a change in allocation of funding and consequently may impact on staffing compliments in some schools. The impact will need to be considered and consulted upon with Head Teachers and other stakeholders before an implementation plan is proposed. The implementation plan will be brought back to the Education Committee during 2023/24 academic year for approval.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – none.
- 6.2 Personnel - none.
- 6.3 Other – none.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Scheme of Devolved School Management – April 2022
- 7.2 Scottish Government revised guidelines 2019
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/devolved-school-management-guidelines/>
- 7.3 Scottish Government consultation "Fair Funding to Achieve Excellence and Equity in Education" 2017
[Fair funding to achieve excellence and equity in education: consultation - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/fair-funding-to-achieve-excellence-and-equity-in-education-consultation-2017/)
- 7.4 Report to Education Committee on 21 June 2022

AUTHOR'S NAME	Richard Parker
DESIGNATION	Education Service Manager (Strategy & Operations)
CONTACT INFO	rparker@eastlothian.gov.uk
DATE	21 February 2023