

**Item 5****TITLE OF REPORT: Re-Determination of School Budgets and Contingency Payments**

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**Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of this report is to inform Schools Forum of the decision to provide funding to a school with serious weaknesses.

**Background****White Mere Primary School**

Following an audit investigation in summer 2015, several key members of staff were suspended on full pay from the school, pending further investigations. These and a number other staff members have subsequently left the school.

The school has been placed in Category C by Educationgateshead which is "Schools requiring intensive intervention and support", and without this intensive intervention and support would fall into Category D, Ofsted judgement of "Serious Weaknesses" or "Special Measures".

Carr Hill School was asked to support White Mere with leadership time. Due to the number of issues at White Mere, Carr Hill brought in a management team which consisted of both head teacher and deputy head teacher support together with finance and admin support. Other staffing issues identified in the school have been addressed including PPA cover and lunchtime supervision. These issues, in addition to the school budget sustaining two head teachers, finance and admin support for a number of months has increased the pressure on the school budget.

White Mere Primary School chair of governors applied for contingency funding under item 4 of the Contingency Criteria as per appendix 1 (special measures) for the amount of £34,721. This request equates to a contribution towards additional head teacher costs and the provision of some much needed resources in the school to support teaching and learning.

**Process**

The request for contingency funding was reviewed against the criteria attached at appendix 1 and was found to meet criteria, "The provision of additional resources or other special support, temporarily, in response to a school found to be in need of Special Measures within the meaning of Part V of the Education Act 1993 and in accordance with DFE Circular 17/93."

The school budget position was also reviewed and the school budget is under pressure with a predicted small deficit at the end of the financial year, taking into

account all other revenue grants. The school has a small capital allocation which is expected to be spent this financial year.

Educationgateshead colleagues have been consulted and support the application due to the issues at the school. During the summer the school was assessed as meeting all 5 areas of concern under category C:-

- School Performance
- Standards and Achievement
- Quality of Education
- Behaviour and Safety
- Leadership and Management

Under these circumstances and noting that the school meets the contingency funding criteria White Mere Primary School has been awarded the sum of £34,721.

### **Proposal**

It is proposed that Schools Forum notes the amount of funding provided to the above school.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that School Forum notes the funding provided to the above schools.

### **For the following reasons:**

- To provide funding to the school as a school requiring intensive intervention and support.

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## Appendix 1

### Updated Contingency Funding Criteria

The LEA will retain centrally contingency funding that **could** provide in-year support to schools for:

1. Cost pressures specifically identified and caused by a relatively large numerical change in pupil numbers, especially if it relates to a single age-group, where the change is outside the control of the governing body and where the timing of the change in circumstances prevents no opportunity to the school to plan accordingly (eg housing demolition or compulsory purchase orders, or reorganisation)
2. The correction of significant errors in the data or in the application of the resource allocation formula.
3. Emergency costs arising from incidents outside the control of the governing body of the school (eg flood or fire damage). The money allocated for these purposes will be earmarked for specific use.
4. The provision of additional resources or other special support, temporarily, in response to a school found to be in need of Special Measures within the meaning of Part V of the Education Act 1993 and in accordance with DFE Circular 17/93.
5. For in-year allocations to schools in respect of pupils with new or revised statements of SEN, or for statemented pupils transferring between schools within the LEA.
6. For in-year allocations to schools in respect of the admission of pupils permanently excluded by other schools. Such allocations will be determined in accordance with Regulations made by the Secretary of State under Section 47 of the 1998 Act.
7. Schools that are in financial difficulty, and can demonstrate that they have taken all reasonable measures to address financial issues, and that the current financial difficulties are not as a result of financial mismanagement. Schools must apply the LEA's "Model of Reasonableness" before making an application to demonstrate that they meet the criteria.

If contingency is given and a school ends the same financial year with a surplus balance in excess of 16% for primary and special schools or 10% for secondary schools the contingency payment, or a proportion of it, will be clawed back.