

WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM
SOCIAL DEPRIVATION SUB-GROUP
NOTES OF MEETING 5th DECEMBER 2006

In Attendance

Andy McHale – Children’s Services Resources
 Trish Mallinson – Children’s Services Finance
 Bernard Roberts – Prince Henry’s High School
 Cherrill Illingworth – Oakhill First School
 June Longmuir – Worcestershire Association of Governors

DETAIL	ACTION
<p><u>1. Background and Purpose</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group constituted in response to the DfES requirement for a local review on the funding in local formulae to support the costs of social deprivation. • Needs to be in conjunction with Schools Forums. • Remit of the group is to review existing areas and formulae with a view to making recommendations for change (if any). 	
<p><u>2. WCC Statement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final version that had been agreed at the Schools Forum previously in April 2006 was tabled. • This is the first stage of the review and sets out the existing policy and practice. • The previous discussion papers from the Forum meeting were also circulated. This included the current formula areas in 2006/07 against the notional DSG resource. 	
<p><u>3. DfES Requirements on LA’s and Schools Forums</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group noted the need to move on this area but were concerned that a low funding base was influencing significantly any potential for change. • Any existing or new formula changes would depend on the DSG quantum and the need for stability. It was noted that it could be demonstrated that the current formula allocates more via a range of factors than the notional DSG sum. 	
<p><u>4. DfES Current Thinking</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information from recent DfES funding conferences was tabled for discussion. • This included a report of a national study into the local funding issues for social deprivation within LA’s. 	

5. Potential Way Forward

The group discussed the following areas: -

- There was a concern in removing FSM as a proxy indicator.
- Need to consider non-funding issues such as assessment, attainment and value added and its link to FSM i.e. the impact on outcomes.
- The impact on extended schools, children's centres and other national policy initiatives.
- Potential use of other factors e.g. ACORN, IMD.
- Targeting of pockets of deprivation e.g. SOA's.

It was agreed to: -

- Prepare some initial modelling on current FSM allocations against the formula ACORN data.
- Research the approach in other LA's.
- Consider the use of other data sets e.g. IMD.
- Consider the link to attainment and value added.

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Documents shared/discussed at the meeting: -

WCC Deprivation statement submission to the DfES May 2006

National Deprivation Study Report July 2006

Schools Forum Paper October 2006

DfES Conference Materials November 2006

Date of next meeting – Andy to arrange and confirm for next term.