

REPORT TO THE SCHOOLS FORUM
SOCIAL DEPRIVATION ISSUES

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To advise the Schools Forum of the current position in respect of Social Deprivation funding.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 As part of the introduction of the new funding arrangements for schools from 2006/07 LA's were required to provide information to the DfES on their local funding arrangements in respect of social deprivation for schools.

2.2 This statement was discussed at Forum meetings in the Spring and contains specific information about Worcestershire's approach and funding arrangements. Also at the last Forum meeting in July 2006 there was discussion on the potential use of ACORN data in a funding model for deprivation and that this needs to be considered further.

2.3 During the Summer the DfES have written to all LA's indicating the requirement for further work in this area.

3. AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 DfES Issues

(a) The DfES circular including the technical report is attached for information at Appendix A. It outlines the current position so far, a technical report of a review of deprivation indicators used in LA school funding formulae and the requirement for further work in this area.

(b) Current Position Key Issues

- the identification in the DSG of funding available to tackle the effects of deprivation;
- the submission of LA deprivation statements.

(c) Technical Report Key Issues

- the recognition that funding for social deprivation, additional educational needs (AEN) and special educational needs (SEN) are interlinked and can and do have the same indicators;
- the use of proxy indicators (pupil or area based) and direct measures;
- the new geography of 'Output Areas' and 'Super Output Areas,;
- geo-demographic classifications such as ACORN;
- the relationship of deprivation factors with pupil attainment;
- a number of LA case studies, which demonstrate a wide variation in the use of indicators and funding levels.

(d) Further Work Key Issues

- the recognition of a wide degree of variation between LA strategies for assessing and funding the costs of deprivation;
- no systematic approach to reviewing need or how to use funding to drive up attainment for pupils from deprived backgrounds;
- further progress needed via local funding formulae;
- the need for LA's in conjunction with their Schools Forum to undertake a full and systematic review of their local arrangements for the next multi year budget period commencing April 2008.

3.2 Local Issues

(a) The above process has already started via the ACORN discussion at the last Forum meeting in July and the commitment for the Forum to commission further work in this important area.

(b) Some initial work undertaken is detailed in Appendix B attached. It provides for: -

- an analysis of all deprivation, AEN and SEN funding in the WCC local funding formula in 2006/07 compared to the notional amount notified in the DSG;
- charts detailing different funding per pupil amounts against ACORN scores for individual schools and groups.

(c) This and other work will continue as required as part of the working party brief.

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 The Schools Forum notes the current position and further requirements in this area.

4.2 The Schools Forum agrees membership of a task group for the review of this area.

Andy McHale
Policy Officer Resources
September 2006