

Agenda item 6

Cheshire West and Chester Schools Forum draft response to funding increases to teachers' pensions employer contributions Government consultation

Question 1.

Do you agree with the proposal to fund schools (as defined in 4.6) for these increased costs?

We agree that the schools defined in 4.6 should be funded.

We consider that there is a risk in including non maintained and independent special schools. There is a lack of transparency with some fee charging schools that would not enable local authorities to identify whether this cost had been funded or passed onto local authorities in revised charges. This funding should be transparent and identifiable to organisations when agreeing fees and charges for places.

To avoid confusion, the list at 4.6 should more clearly identify maintained alternative provision and hospital schools, and nursery and sixth forms attached to schools

We welcome the inclusion of local authority centrally employed teachers who were not included in the recent teachers pay grant allocations.

We consider that providers of the universal and extended nursery entitlements should also be included as the increase will be material for smaller organisations.

Question 2.

Do you agree with the proposal to fund FE colleges and other public-funded training organisations for these increased costs?

Yes, we agree that this should be funded based on contributions such that this funding is transparent and identifiable to organisations when agreeing fees and charges for places.

Question 3.

Please provide any additional evidence relating to the impact on all sectors, which you think the Department should consider considering these proposals.

It is important that the methodology for allocating the additional funding is accurate, is based on contributions or workforce data. The impact of this increase on an average sized secondary school in our Borough is c£180k – the equivalent to the cost of 3 or 4 teaching staff. Allocations need to be correct and timely to avoid schools having to find alternative cost savings to meet this.

Question 4.

To what extent will this proposal have an impact on people with one or more protected characteristics?

We are not aware of any impact this proposal could have on people with one or more protected characteristics.