

24 January 2024

Devon Schools Leadership Services (DSLS) CIO
Summary Survey Responses to: 2024-25 Schools Funding Arrangements
Proposal 4 - Movements into Another Block to support Expanding the Early Help Offer in Devon

Recommendation: That DEF note the responses to the DSLS survey which will assist to inform the voting decisions of individual headteacher members representing their respective phase and LA school or academy sectors.

1. 2024-25 Schools Funding Arrangements

1.1. At the meeting of Devon Education Forum (DEF) on 22/11/23 (Item 107), details of responses to the 2024-25 Schools Funding Arrangements Consultation were shared with DEF members as follows:

[DEF 23-14 - 2024-25 Devon Consultation Responses.pdf](#)

1.2. In summary, a total of 117 out of 352 individual schools (33% of all schools) submitted responses to the DCC consultation, representing just over 34,600 pupils.

1.3. Specifically the responses to Proposal 4 - Movements into Another Block revealed the following responses to the proposal: Do you agree to transfer funding of 0.5%, for one year only, from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block to develop an Early Help (Education) Offer for schools as part of the Safety Valve agreement?

	Academy Primary	Academy Secondary	Total Academy	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary	Total Maintained	Total Schools
Individual Schools:							
Agree	14	6	20	17	1	18	38
Disagree	22	13	35	36	0	36	71
Neither Agree or Disagree	0	0	0	8	0	8	8
Total	36	19	55	61	1	62	117
NOR:							
Agree	12%	5%	17%	15%	1%	15%	32%
Disagree	19%	11%	30%	31%	0%	31%	61%
Neither Agree or Disagree	0%	0%	0%	7%	0%	7%	7%
Total	31%	16%	47%	52%	1%	53%	100%

1.4. It was minuted (107) that "Officers advised that in respect of Report recommendation (a)(ii)(a), proposal 4, regarding the transfer between blocks (section 4(c) of the Report), the Forum was not currently being asked to take a decision on Proposal 4 itself due to outstanding information still awaited, but to agree in principle on how funding would be distributed, in relation to the consideration of Proposal 4 at the Forum's meeting in January 2024. Should the Forum not agree to Proposal 4 at its January 2024 meeting, this would not form any part of the allocation should the County Council receive additional funds from Government in December 2023."

1.5. Furthermore, (107) "(e) that it be noted that further information relating to (a)(ii)(A) above would be forwarded to Forum Members as soon as possible this academic term, to enable them to discuss with their respective school colleagues (where appropriate) in advance of its consideration at the 24 January 2023 DEF meeting."

2. Proposal: Expanding the Early Help Offer in Devon

2.1. A slide presentation detailing proposals for Expanding the Early Help Offer in Devon were received by DSLS on 4/12/23 and duly shared with all Primary and Secondary schools in Devon by way of a short survey [Important - School Funding Arrangements](#).

2.2. Schools were advised that the survey was not a formal or additional consultation and that DSLS was seeking the views of school leader colleagues to assist elected DEF members to make an informed decision on behalf of the phase and school type (academy or maintained) which they are representing when the proposal was presented for a decision at the next meeting.

2.3. The single question being asked of school leaders was:

Having considered this proposal (Expanding Early Help Offer in Devon), would you be happy to support the transfer of up to 0.5% transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for one year only, to develop an Early Help (Education) Offer for schools within the management plan as part of the Safety Valve negotiations with the DfE?

2.4. The survey opened on 5 December 2023 and closed on 5 January 2024.

2.5. A total of 126 out of 352 individual schools (36% of all schools) submitted responses to the survey, representing 40,676 pupils as per NOR included within the 2024/25 DSG allocation data presented at Schools' Finance Group on 12/1/24.

2.6. This is a breakdown of responses by individual schools within each phase/sector (table 2.7) and also by % number of overall pupil numbers from responding schools (table 2.8), to enable comparison with the table in 1.3 above:

2.7. Individual Schools:

	Academy Primary	Academy Secondary	All Through*	Total Academy	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary	Total Maintained	Total Schools
Agree	32	3	0	35	16	1	17	52
Disagree	34	14	1	49	24	1	25	74
Total	66	17	1	84	40	2	42	126
% Number of schools within each school phase/sector								
Agree	48.5%	17.6%	0%	41.7%	40.0%	50.0%	40.5%	41.3%
Disagree	51.5%	82.4%	100%	58.3%	60.0%	50.0%	59.5%	58.7%

2.8. Pupil Numbers:

	Academy Primary	Academy Secondary	All Through*	Total Academy	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary	Total Maintained	Total Schools
Agree	4,500	2,710	0	7,210	2,965	756	3,721	10,931
Disagree	6,180	15,756	876	22,812	5,619	1,314	6,933	29,745
Total	10,680	18,466	876	30,022	8,584	2,070	10,654	40,676
% Number of overall pupils from responding schools								
Agree	11.1%	6.7%	0%	17.7%	7.3%	1.8%	9.1%	26.9%
Disagree	15.2%	38.7%	2.2%	56.1%	13.8%	3.2%	17.0%	73.1%
Total	26.3%	45.4%	2.2%	73.8%	21.1%	5.0%	26.2%	100.0%

2.9. Having considered the outcome of the survey, individual headteacher members of Devon Education Forum who are representing their respective phase and sector, will use the results of the survey to inform their respective vote on Proposal 4 - Movements into Another Block to support Expanding the Early Help Offer in Devon.

Schools Executive Committee
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