

Questions to Julie Lessiter of the Education Funding Agency

Warwickshire Schools Forum March 2013

1. All over the country small schools, particularly in rural areas, are claiming that the new funding arrangements are putting them at a disadvantage. Is there likelihood that this problem will be addressed by a National Funding formula?

Cllr.Clive Rickhards – Elected Member - Studley

2. Is there a possibility that there could be a review of SEN funding to schools in general?

Cllr.Clive Rickhards – Elected Member - Studley

3. When is a national funding formula likely to come in - if at all - and would they be looking at balancing the books? Do the proposals for each school to set its own salary levels (that is to de-nationalise the teacher's pay scales) lead to a rethink on having a national funding formula?

Stella Saje – Head Teacher – Glendale Infant School

4. If the NFF is to be introduced still, how will it be phased in, so that losers have time to adjust and winners' time to grow?

Stella Saje – Head Teacher – Glendale Infant School

5. In terms of approach, are the DfE looking for a baseline funding level nationally - that is, a funding level that would ensure the costs of a quality education being available to every school, and then look to share out any remaining money through specific targeted areas - e.g London weighting, inner city premium, areas of high deprivation, SEN etc?

Stella Saje – Head Teacher – Glendale Infant School

6. De-delegation – where the Schools Forum have decided to de-delegate funding in 2013/14, will this decision need to be made on an annual basis? The DfE have also talked about increased delegation of the schools block. Is this likely to be a requirement for 2014/15 and if so, which lines on the section 251?

Sara Haslam - Schools Funding and Strategy Manager

7. Will there be a revision to the Scheme for Financing Schools for implementation in April 2013?

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8. On what basis will the 2014/15 DSG be established? Will the schools block be based on Oct 2013 pupil numbers x the 2013/14 GUF, the EY block based on Oct 2013 census x 2013/14 GUF and the HNB on the 2012/13 baseline? If not, how will it be calculated?

Sara Haslam - Schools Funding and Strategy Manager