**Behaviour & Attendance Panel Funding Consultation**

**10.1**

**Context**

An item was raised at Schools Forum in September 2016 regarding the funding of Behaviour & Attendance Panels. The Forum acknowledged that the model of the B&A panels in delivering support to vulnerable pupils is one that continues to be both successful and empowering.

With changes to the national schools funding formula & an increased academisation programme, with eventual full academisation anticipated in B&NES, there has been concern amongst some headteachers that the behaviour panels could become fragmented and the funding needed to jointly commission services be consequently reduced, if, as some Academy schools have indicated they will do, opt out of B&A panel arrangements and subsequently also withdraw their individual financial contributions to the panels.

**Schools Forum Request**

Schools Forum discussed options for making alternative arrangements for how funding for B&A panels is distributed, in order to ensure that funding is not reduced.

This paper describes the current arrangements and a proposal to headteachers of an alternative way of distributing the funding to the panels that would mean that schools could not individually withdraw their financial support for the panels.

Headteachers are asked to consider this proposal and indicate if they either agree or disagree with the proposal. The results of the consultation will be brought back to Schools Forum in December 2016 for discussion.

**Current arrangements**

The behaviour panels are funded by identifying the funding allocated to schools through the funding formula and either de-delegating this sum for maintained schools or invoicing academies who receive this funding direct from the EFA through their formula funding.

The total sum for each school is pooled and allocated to the panels administrator (decided by the panel) for all the schools who are attached to that panel

In appendix A attached to this document there is a schedule of the funding allocated to each school (maintained and academy) through the funding formula and then the amount de delegated for maintained schools and the amount invoiced to academies. The figures shown are the funding allocations for 2016-17.

The appendix also shows the funding allocated to each panel by de delegation or by the panel invoicing the academies in their cluster. The allocations differ from the original allocations through the funding formula to reflect the administrative function provided by the LA in support of the panels.

**Proposal**

The proposal for financial year 2017-18 would be to remove the total sum (£923,251) from the funding formula and reduce the AWPU in the primary sector by £44 and the Secondary sector by £35 (matching the allocations that have occurred in 2016-17. Schools will see a reduction in their funding level by the sums shown in Appendix A.

The LA will then not de-delegate the behaviour panel funding and the panels will not invoice the academies leaving all schools in exactly the same position financially as the current arrangements. The LA will then allocate the funding that has been retained to the behaviour panels in the same way as the current arrangements to ensure the panels will see no difference to the current arrangements.

In order to ensure that schools see no difference the LA will request a disapplication of the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) for this element of funding

**What this essentially means?**

Under the current formula for distributing panel funding, Schools can opt out of B&A panels support & processes should they wish too, however academy schools in doing this can also withdraw their financial support for B&A panels.

Within the new proposal the funding for panels remains the same in amount, but individual schools cannot withdraw their financial support for the panels, as the Local Authority will allocate directly the funding to the panels.

**Consultation**

In order for Schools Forum to take a decision on the method of funding these panels, the forum would be grateful if you could indicate below your schools opinion on this proposal:

□ Yes I agree with the proposal

□ No I do not agree with the proposal

Comments/reasons for or against – Insert below

**Name:**

**Role or Position:**

**School:**

□ Please tick this box to indicate that if you are not the schools headteacher, that you have consulted with the headteacher of your school and that your response is that of the head and the school.

**Signed:**

Please return this form directly by email to debbie\_durnell@bathnes.gov.uk by 4.30pm on **Friday 24th of November 2016.**