

14 to 19 FUNDING 2007/8

Report of the Director of Children Schools and Families

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1 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To update Forum of the use of funding for Strategic Area Partnership Groups (SAPGs) during the financial year 2006/7, and inform the forum of the successful work amongst SAPGs as a result of these funding arrangements.
- 1.2 To agree arrangements for funding of the SAPGs for the financial year 2007/8

2 Background

2.1 Funding for 06/07 financial year

- 2.1.1 In the 06/07 financial year the following funding streams were identified, and with agreement from Schools Forum and the Strategic Partnership Group (SPG – the broad based partnership group that oversees the work of the SAPGs), used to support the work of the SAPGs:-

LSC funding to support AWI action plan	1,600,000
CSF collaboration Fund	510,000
DSG 14-19 practical learning	946,000
CSF transport grant	250,000
TOTAL	£3,306,000

- 2.1.2 Over £3m of this was allocated to SAPGs on a formula basis.
 - 2.1.3 Before allocations were released, each SAPG had to provide a three year plan showing how they would use the funding in a way that was supportive of the post Area Wide Inspection (AWI) action plan.
 - 2.1.4 The SAPGs' plans were formally presented to the SPG for approval.
- 2.2 Details of how this funding was used in 2006/7 are shown in appendix 1

3 Review of the work of the SAPGs

- 3.1 During March 07 a review was conducted of the first year's work of the SAPGs. Chairs, most of whom are Heads, and coordinators were interviewed.
- 3.2 The principal finding is that the SAPGs have achieved a great deal in their first year. The ability to appoint local coordinators has been crucial in the development of local partnerships that have led to increased collaboration and significantly improved opportunities for young people :-
- In particular there has been a significant increase in the provision of vocational courses across the county (e.g. skills centre in Dacorum, expanded Increased Flexibility (IF) programme in Hatfield, increase in IF numbers in South East Herts, access to apprenticeships, construction at Barnwell, hair and beauty at Francis Combe, hairdressing at Birchwood, etc).
 - Hertfordshire SAPGs have been very successful in having so many of its Gateway submissions accepted for permission to deliver the new diplomas. Only one authority has been granted more than Hertfordshire, and the North Herts SAPG is one of only ten in the country to be granted permission to offer all five diplomas. The Dacorum SAPG has been granted £950,000 capital development funding to support creative and media studies diploma.
 - All SAPGs are planning for an increased vocational offer in 2007/08.
- 3.3 Most SAPGs have also started developments in Virtual Learning Environments (VLE), and some have made significant steps forward to develop a coherent model across the SAPG.
- 3.4 A number of priorities have arisen from the review:
- 3.4.1 Facilitate and strengthen collaboration - by encouraging greater participation from all partners including work based learning providers , all schools and colleges.
 - 3.4.2 Improve curriculum provision – curriculum planning to include Foundation Learning Tier and Entry Provision, Functional skills, re-engagement programmes etc. Particularly to improve opportunities at level 2 and below.
 - 3.4.3 Specialised Diploma roll out - most SAPGs received approval to start offering diploma courses from 2008 and so will need to begin the planning for these, whilst at the same time considering applications for the next five diplomas.
 - 3.4.4 Sustainability issues - all SAPGs are concerned about the rising costs of transport arrangements associated with increased collaboration and are waiting for the outcomes of the review being conducted by a specialist consultant. The capacity of the coordinator, to complete the growing volume of work required, is also causing concerns in some SAPGs. At least two have decided to increase the part time contract of their coordinator for the coming year.
 - 3.4.5 Reductions of those not in education employment or training (NEETs) - the improvements in provision at level 2 and below are already having impact on the NEET figure, which is already very low in Hertfordshire This work needs to be continued and developed.

- 3.4.6 Level 2 provision post 16 – this was identified by the AWI as a priority and though some improvement has been made there is still a need to encourage more schools to make level 2 provision available to their students post 16.
- 3.4.7 Quality assurance - with students being taught on more than one site, ensuring quality of provision is increasingly difficult. A pilot project has been conducted in two SAPGs with the University of London, and the outcomes of the project need to be rolled out across the county.
- 3.4.8 Implementing collaboration with KS4 learning centres and Special schools - this priority will be supported by the secondment of a special school deputy head.
- 3.4.9 Development and integration of Individual Learning Plans and VLEs.
- 3.4.10 As confidence in collaborative partnerships grows and trust develops, it will become more possible for the learners to become the focus of planning rather than the institutions, enabling programmes to become more personalised.
- 3.4.11 In addition to these common priorities many SAPG have very specific development projects to take forward, e.g. a construction centre in Bishop's Stortford.

4 2007/8 Funding Streams

4.1 The funding streams available for 2007/8 are:

LSC funding to support AWI action plan	1,600,000
CSF collaboration Fund	531,149
DSG 14-19 practical learning	2,629,000
Flexible 14-19 partnership fund	327,000
TOTAL	£5,087,149

- 4.2 The CSF transport grant was provided in 2006/07 as a pump priming resource to facilitate consortium transport. This grant is not ongoing in 2007/08 and SAPG's will need to take these costs into account within their budget allocation.
- 4.3 It is proposed that the DSG funds be used in the same way as last year, i.e. allocated to the SAPGs by formula.
- 4.4 At the moment the financial year 07/08 is the last year we know for certain that most of these funding streams will be available. The LSC funding to support the post AWI action plan will definitely not be available. The DfES has given no indication of DSG and standards fund grants beyond April 2008.

5 Proposals for 07/08

It is proposed that the 2007/08 funding streams be used as follows:-

- The DSG practical learning fund is treated as last year, and added to the pooled budget that is then distributed through the SAPGs;
- With a larger total budget available SAPGs will be required to produce plans to use the funding over two years, and to clearly show their strategies for the future

when the funding will have reduced. These plans would need to be approved by the SPG;

- A sum of £650,000, from the total pooled budget be retained centrally for costs set out below to sustain work for the next two years (£325,000 per year).
- The balance (£4,487,189) to be devolved to SAPGs on a formula basis. Details of the formula and allocations will need to be approved by the SPG
- It is proposed that, similar to last year, the formula will have three elements:
 1. A volume figure for numbers of students in the SAPG,
 2. An attainment figure to provide more funding in areas where attainment is lower,
 3. A deprivation figure based upon free school meal entitlement.

Centrally retained expenditure/year	
Strategy Manager	75,000
Prospectus costs - software maintenance and technical support plus officer management.	40,000
Adviser costs to support SAPGs and SPG - (30 days per year @£500 per day)	15,000
Continued work to support development of better use of transport	15,000
Development of employer engagement with new curriculum models & one day per week secondments for SAPGs.	70,000
Data management –to ensure collection and intelligent use of data to establish priorities for SAPGs and drive developments forward. E.g. improved curriculum analysis, mapping of provision, development of improved level 2 offer, review of standards and introduction of new progress measure.	40,000
Continued secondment of special deputy to support inclusion.	15,000
Consultant/adviser/staff costs to lead curriculum development including: county wide diploma network groups, functional skills, new forms of assessment, etc.	25,000
Contingency	30,000
Total	£325,000

6 Conclusion

- 6.1 Members are asked to note and comment on the proposals for pooling and distribution of funding for 2007/08.
- 6.2 Forum is asked to approve the distribution of the 14 to 19 practical learning grant as proposed above.

Appendix 1 – Details of use of funding 2006/7

1.1 Distributed to SAPGs and Colleges:-

Each college was allocated £10,300	£41,200
South East Herts	£439,970
Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth	£135,268
St Albans and Harpenden	£538,922
Welwyn Hatfield and East Hertsmere	£384,280
Stevenage and North Herts	£709,451
Watford, Three rivers and Bushey	£353,716
Dacorum	£447,416
Total	£3,050,223

1.2 £255,777 was centrally retained for :

Adviser support for SAPGs – provided in term one by a consultant and subsequently by the strategy manager and a SEA and a one day per week secondment of a special school deputy	£50,000
Prospectus costs	£25,000
Data management (for work by J Greely and M Aust for prospectus and curriculum analysis)	£60,000
Post AWI central activities e.g. training for coordinators at Hertfordshire Development Centre, 14 to 19 networks, etc	£25,000
Contingency	£25,777
14 to19 Strategy Manager	£70,000
Total	£255,777

1.2.1 Prospectus costs were higher than the estimated £25k and the extra cost has been met from the contingency.

1.3 Additional in year funding

1.3.1 Shortly after these monies were allocated to the colleges and SAPGs the DfES announced an extra Standards Fund Grant entitled the Flexible 14 to 19 Partnership Fund.

Total grant = £336,000

1.3.2 This grant has been used to :

- Commission consultants' work on transport and employer engagement,
- Supporting schools with work on the online prospectus,
- To fund a project on quality assurance of students' programmes.

- A contingency to support further work on transport
- Funding the secondment of a special school deputy to support the SAPGs with inclusion issues.
- Additional financial allocations to SAPGs.