

School Improvement Budget; proposals for processes of decision-making and reporting

Version revised in light of Schools' Forum comments 6 July 2015

Background

At the meeting of the Schools' Forum 19 January 2015 it was unanimously agreed that a specific budget would be allocated for school improvement. This would comprise £50k from schools' budget – to be match-funded by £50k from the Council.

It was noted that, given the different needs of different schools, the budget would fund “a mixed economy of different solutions”.

A process is needed to enable decisions regarding use of this budget. Decisions need to be based on clear evidence of need using a transparent process.

It was noted that this budget would be reviewed within an appropriate period to assess how effective it is and whether it should continue.

Proposal

1. Establish a small group to make decisions regarding the use of the budget. The group will meet as necessary to agree action in the light of the Council's Policy for Learning and Skills, the School Improvement Strategy and analysis by the Education Performance Board.
2. The group will comprise:
 - The Head of Learning and Skills Services (or representative Specialist Education Officer);
 - The Head of the Rutland Teaching Alliance (RTA) or substitute;
 - A voting member of the Schools' Forum.

One representative should be secondary and one primary.

3. All decisions will be recorded for scrutiny by the Council and the Schools' Forum.
4. Establish a programme of reporting and scrutiny to the Council and Schools' Forum.
 - Reports will be presented to the Education Performance Board and Cabinet at least twice yearly.
 - A summary verbal report will go to each meeting of the Schools' Forum and a written report will be presented yearly.