



**Subject Heading:**

**DSG Central Expenditure 2016-17 -  
School Partnership Fund**

**Report Author:**

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Effectiveness Manager and David Allen  
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**Eligibility to vote:**

**All members**

### SUMMARY

With the approval of their Schools Forums, LAs may hold budgets centrally from their DSG within a limited range of categories. This report recommends that the Havering Schools Funding Forum continues to support the retention of a central budget in financial year 2016-17 to support schools causing concern and the cost of establishing school partnerships to address areas of weakness in some schools.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Schools Funding Forum approves a budget of £200,000 to be held centrally in financial year 2016-17, funded from the DSG that will enable:

- (i) the LA to broker support for schools in areas that require strengthening for the schools to achieve a better Ofsted Judgement
- (ii) the LA to provide support to schools causing concern that cannot be funded from elsewhere

### REPORT DETAIL

1. In setting budgets for each financial year that are funded by the DSG, the LA is permitted through national school funding regulations to seek the approval of their Schools Forums to hold funding centrally within a limited range of categories such as pupil growth, schools with falling rolls, school admissions administration etc. Since the introduction of the Schools Funding Reforms in 2013-14 the LA has, with the approval of the Schools Funding Forum, held centrally a budget of £236k to support school partnerships and those schools that have become a cause of concern. This budget provision was also retained centrally prior to 2013-14 and was

previously funded from Standards Fund grant which has since been merged into the DSG. The proposal for 2016-17 is to retain a smaller budget of £200k.

2. This budget enables the LA to broker support to schools where there are identified weaknesses that require strengthening for the schools to improve their OFSTED judgement at their next inspection. The emphasis is on schools supporting schools rather than direct support provided from the School Improvement Service (HSIS).
3. The schools partnership budget has in the last two financial years funded at least 21 partnerships that have been brokered by the LA. Both the supporting and the supported schools receive funding from this budget and for financial year 2015-16 the Schools Forum agreed daily rates of £250 and £450 for teacher and head teacher release respectively. Schools with significant balances carried forward are expected as a matter of priority to direct their resources towards addressing identified areas of weakness so do not receive additional funding from this budget.
4. Currently there is a process for Teaching Schools to bid for funding to support school partnerships through the National College for School Leadership and both the Secondary Teaching School and (at the time) the Primary Teaching School have been successful in bidding for funds to support other Havering Schools. Unfortunately the primary school has not retained its Teaching School status so that source of funding is not currently available. Any additional funding received from the NCSL reduces the demand on the Schools Partnership Fund, However the regional coordinator for teaching schools indicated that this funding is likely to be cut or severely curtailed and that currently no further bidding rounds are planned.
5. In establishing the partnership arrangements there are clear objectives agreed between the schools which are monitored and evaluated as part of the regular performance review meetings held at the schools with their strategic leads from HSIS.
6. The schools that have been supported in financial years 2013-14 and 2014-15 (as previously reported to the Schools Funding Forum) are as follows:

Benhurst Primary	Newtons Primary
Brady Primary	Ravensbourne
Clockhouse Primary	Rise Park Junior
Brookside Junior	Parklands Junior
Dycorts	Squirrels Heath Junior
Elm Park Primary	Suttons Primary
Harold Court Primary	The James Oglethorpe Primary
Harold Wood Primary	Towers Infant
Hylands Primary	Towers Junior
La Sallette Primary	Wykeham Primary
Langtons Junior	Manor Green College

The partnership funding also provided in 2014-15 academic year six good to outstanding partnerships, through small scale bursaries.

In 2014-15 the LA funded in full for year 1 and at 50% for year 2, from HSIS traded earnings, the Aspire programme for eight schools. Due to pressure on LA budgets this will not be possible to fund the other 50% for year two, nor to fund year 3. The cost of this would be £7.5k per school for year two and £15k per school for year three. This might be considered as one use of funding from the partnership fund.

School partnerships funded in the current year are Mead/Broadford, Manor Green College/Olive Academy Trust, Wykeham/RJ Mitchell. The LA is currently seeking to arrange support partnerships for Dame Tipping, Newtons and potentially two or three other schools dependent on the outcome of QA reports. This could include secondary schools, which may well need to be funded at a higher level than primary schools.

7. Should the Schools Funding Forum decide against the central retention of this budget then the LA can continue to set up school partnerships but no funding will be available to allocate to either school for teacher release and there will be no funding to support schools causing concern. There is also an option which might be considered, to continue funding but at a lower rate.