

**Schools Forum 20 March 2007**

**Report of the Director of Children's Services**

**Transport Budgets 2006/07**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To advise Schools Forum of the transport budgets held within the Directorate of Children's Services in respect of service provision for pupils.

**Budget Working Group Discussed**

2. No

**Schools Forum Action**

3. To note the contents of the report.

**Attachments**

4. Appendix 1 – Children's Services Transport Budgets for 2006/07.

**Schools Forum 20 March 2007**

**Report of the Director of Children's Services**

**Transport 2006/07**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To advise Schools Forum of the transport budgets held within the Directorate of Children's Services in respect of service provision for pupils.

**Background**

2. At a previous Schools Forum meeting there was a request from the Forum to view the financial data in respect of the Directorate's budgets set aside for transport. This was particularly in light of the recent review of home to school transport arrangements.
3. The transport budgets for Children's Services are not funded by the DSG therefore the setting and monitoring of these budgets are not the responsibility of Schools Forum but a Council responsibility under the Director of Children's Services.
4. Transport within the Directorate covers a wide area particularly since the Children's Services Directorate restructure which now includes the provision for social care transport. The financial details are highlighted in Appendix 1.

**Finance**

5. The funding of schools is prescribed by the DfES through the School Finance (England) Regulations 2006.
6. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006, the Schools Budget is funded by a direct DfES grant: Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

**Law**


7. Councils' LMS Schemes are made under Section 48 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The Education Acts 1996 and 2002 also have provisions relating to school funding.

## **Equality Impact**

8. The Council's Equal Opportunities Policy is taken into account when considering the allocation of resources.

## **Recommendation**

9. Schools Forum note the Directorate of Children's Services transport budgets for 2006/07.



**John Freeman**

**Director of Children's Services**

Contact Officer:

Karen Cocker, Education Finance Manager

[Karen.cocker@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.cocker@dudley.gov.uk) Tel: 01384 815382

**2006/07 Children’s Services Budget Analysis for Transport Costs in Relation to Service Provision**

Service Details	Budget Area	2006/07 Budget £	2006/07 Projected Outturn £	2006/07 Variance + overspend () underspend £	Comments
<b>Home To School Transport</b>	Mainstream schools	161,700	189,917	28,217	Transport provided for children of a statutory school age who live outside a 2-3 mile radius of their school by either a bus pass, taxi/coach travel or mileage reimbursements for parents. Also supports pupils with short term medical problems and transporting travelling children. Currently supports costs for children travelling to a denominational school by the issue of a bus pass.
	Home and Hospital	86,400	81,522	(4,878)	Covers transport to and from the Home and Hospital service by taxi.
	Learning Support Service	7,000	8,852	1,852	Covers the transport of children to and from Netherbrook school for the Learning Support service by taxi.

	Special Schools	1,470,900	1,999,841	528,941	Covers transport to Dudley special schools and extra district schools. An appropriate form of transport is arranged after a risk assessment is completed (a bus pass, taxi/coach travel or mileage for parents). Also covers the costs of running two minibuses to the Pens Meadow school.
	Multicultural Service	13,200	27,699	14,499	Costs incurred transporting children to Saturday and other classes. (EMAS)
<b>Social Care</b>	Phoenix Centre	34,590	34,590	0	Transport provided for children with special needs to the Pre School Assessment Unit.
	Residential Placements	31,760	31,760	0	Currently under review as transport costs are included within the costs of care.
	Care Assessment	7,680	12,048	4,368	Transporting children to school and supervised contact.
	Care Management	151,390	276,842	125,452	Transporting Looked after Children to school and supervised contact.
	Children With Disabilities	24,250	23,955	(295)	Transporting children with disabilities to supervised contact and school.
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,988,870</b>	<b>2,687,026</b>	<b>698,156</b>	