

Feedback from the Funding Sub group (Deprivation Funding)

1. At the December Schools Forum it was agreed that the Funding Sub Group would look at methods of allocating any available headroom in 2007/08 to deprivation funding.
2. When the Sub Group meet in January they discussed alternative methods of allocating funding to deprivation including the Index of Multiple Deprivation. However, they agreed that the existing factors in the formula would be the easiest to use given the time scale. Also there is no clear evidence that points to one method being significantly better than another method. The three factors that were chosen are a mixture of social and educational factors.
3. The two social factors chosen were English as a Second Language and Free School Meals. Both allocate funding on a per eligible pupil basis. The other factor chosen was Educational Disadvantage. This allocates funding based on key stage 1 and 2 results and School Action Plus in the Primary sector and CAT results in the Secondary sector.
4. Taken together these three factors allocate broadly the same amount of funding in each sector. The group was clear that any additional funding should be split equally between the sectors. Also there was no clear priority between the factors, so any funding should be equally split between the three factors. The group also agreed that this approach should only be used to allocate up to a maximum of £1.3M (the provisional amount of headroom identified at the December meeting). If additional headroom was available other methods of distributing funding should be considered.
5. Table 1a in the Annex shows what the current 2007/08 formula would allocate compared to how much each factor would allocate if an additional £1.3M funding were available. Table 1b compares the 2007/08 rates per pupil with the amount that would be generated under the proposed model.