

EXECUTIVE BOARD

4TH JUNE 2018

SCHOOL UNIFORM GRANT

Purpose:

To establish a local scheme for helping disadvantaged families with the costs of school uniform, on transition to secondary schools, following the discontinuation of the Welsh Government School Uniform Grant

Recommendations / key decisions required:

Create a funding scheme that assists with the cost of school uniform at the start of secondary school for those families eligible for Free School Meals

Reasons: the Welsh Government have announced their School Uniform Grant will not continue in 2018-19

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted NO

Exec Board Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr Glynog Davies

Directorate:	Education & Children	Tel Nos. 01267 246450 / 246426
Name of Head of Service: Gareth Morgans	Director of Education & Children's Services	E Mail Addresses: edgmorgans@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author: Andi Morgan	Head of Education Services	AndiMorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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4TH JUNE 2018

SCHOOL UNIFORM GRANT

In its budget for 2018-19 the Welsh Government has decided to discontinue the School Uniform Grant. Details of the 2017-18 grant & the amounts for Carmarthenshire are contained within Appendix 1, but in summary:

- The grant paid £105 to each family of eligible children towards the cost of school uniform at the commencement of secondary education
- Parents applied to the local authority, and provided they were in receipt of free school meals, a cheque for £105 was issued to them, made out to a specific local supplier of school uniform
- The parent had up to 6 months to redeem the cheque (which did sometimes cause problems with late claims)
- In 2017-18, a total of 309 applications were processed, to a value of £32,445
- The grant also paid a contribution to the LA for administration, in 2017-18 this was £3,518
- By ending the grant, the Welsh Government are leaving it up to the LA's discretion as to whether to offer support to families for school uniform, and to what level
- Although budget has been transferred into the RSG the responsibility has not been noted in the expectations on County Councils

Following discussion at Corporate Management Team, £15k of core funding has been set aside to assist 'families in need' with school uniform at the start of secondary school. As the best proxy indicator for disadvantage we have is Free School Meals, it is proposed that we retain the same criteria as the former WG grant and provide families with £50 of assistance (based on expected numbers) to ensure the scheme is affordable.

A scheme would need to be created to set the parameters, it is proposed that this follows the original WG scheme (see Appendix 1).

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES – Appendix 1 (details of former WG grant)

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Andi Morgan **Head of Education Services**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities NONE	Legal NONE	Finance YES	ICT NONE	Risk Management Issues NONE	Staffing Implications NONE	Physical Assets NONE
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1. Finance

£15k has been set aside corporately to provide assistance to eligible families, therefore £50 per eligible child will be affordable assuming c.300 families are eligible each year.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Andi Morgan **Head of Education Services**

1. Scrutiny Committee - N/A

2. Local Member(s) - N/A

3. Community / Town Council - N/A

4. Relevant Partners

We have canvassed other LAs in the ERW region to see if they are considering establishing their own scheme in light of the demise of the Welsh Government Grant. At the time of writing, only Neath Port Talbot have stated that they are.

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations - N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THERE ARE NONE

Appendix 1

Extract from the 2017-18 School Uniform Grant Award Letter from the Welsh Government

SCHEDULE 1

The Purposes

The Purpose of the Funding is to enable you to provide grant assistance to families on low incomes for the purchase of school uniforms. The Funding is available to pupils entering year 7 of maintained secondary schools in September 2017 who are eligible for free school meals and pupils in special schools, special needs resource bases and pupil referral units who are aged 11 at the start of the 2017/18 school year and who are eligible for free school meals.

In 2017-18 the grant available across the whole of Wales is £700,000 to provide a one off payment of £105 to eligible pupils and £73,520 to fund Councils' administration costs. We estimate there are 6,148 pupils eligible for the grant in 2017-18. However, the grant scheme is demand led and these figures are indicative.

The Funding for administration costs is being distributed on the basis of 50% flat rate (£1,671 in 2017-18) and 50% pro rata to the number of eligible pupils within each Council. You will receive **£3,518** as your share of those administration costs.

The indicative number of pupils eligible for the grant in your area is **309**. The estimated amount of Funding that you will receive in respect of pupils eligible for the grant is **£32,445**. However, if the number of eligible pupils under the scheme is greater than the estimate and therefore the amount needed is more than the indicative figure quoted, we will award that amount to you.

Grants to Third Parties

£32,445 of the Funding must be used by you to provide grants to eligible pupils (the "Beneficiaries"). The maximum amount of grant per Beneficiary is **£105** and must be used by the Beneficiary for school uniforms (the "Scheme").

You are responsible for managing all grants to Beneficiaries and ensuring that all necessary procedures and processes are put in place before any grant is awarded.

You must undertake appropriate due diligence before awarding any funding to a Beneficiary.

You must put in place appropriate grant terms and conditions ensuring that they are in line with and, not in conflict with any of the requirements set out in the Conditions.

In accordance with Condition 10, we may from time to time request information about the Scheme and any grant paid under the Scheme. The information you provide must comply with your Application. Any failure by you to provide satisfactory information will be deemed a Notification Event.

Nothing in this Schedule shall relieve you of any of your obligations to us as set out in the Conditions.

Eligible Costs for **Carmarthenshire County Council**

Cost	Value
One off payment for eligible pupils	£105 per eligible pupil
Estimated number of eligible pupils	309
Total estimated cost of individual grants to eligible pupils	£32,445
Total cost for administering scheme	£3,518
Total Funding	£35,963

To note:

Asylum Seeker pupils entering Year 7 in the 2017/18 school year are entitled to assistance under this Funding if they fulfil the eligibility criteria.