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6 February 2020

Additional Support for Learning

Following on from my letter and update to the Education and Skills Committee on 25 October 2019 about pre-budget scrutiny I am writing to provide an update on our Programme for Government commitment to invest an additional £15 million to improve the implementation of additional support for learning across Scotland.

Scottish Government and Local Authority Leaders reached a joint agreement on the distribution of funding and a set of aims and principles (Annex A) for the delivery of support for the implementation of Additional Support for Learning on 29 November 2019.

The Scottish Government is providing £15 million in the financial year 2019/20 which will be baselined in the Local Government Settlement thereafter. The distribution for the 2019/20 financial year is shown at Annex B. The funding is being distributed based on pupil numbers. The implementation of this commitment will be monitored through the national statistical collection on pupil support staff in schools.

Working in partnership with local government we will use this funding to secure additional frontline staff in this academic year. The aims and principles make clear that this funding is intended for the provision of pupil support staff in schools.

We will ensure through the joint agreement that the additional resource will build capacity within education authorities and schools to respond more effectively to the individual needs of children and young people. The additional frontline support staff provided will improve and enhance the capacity of education authorities to deliver additional support for learning, leading to better experiences for children and families and ensuring they receive the right help at the right time.

JOHN SWINNEY

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR LEARNING – IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

Partnership approach aims and principles

Aims

To provide, in partnership between local and national government:

- access to additional support staff delivered in a way which provides meaningful progress and traction.
- support improved and enhanced capacity, which will make the most difference and lead to better experiences for children and young people, who require additional support, and their families.

Principles

- The commitment to providing additional support staff should be delivered in partnership between national and local government, and relevant partners.
- The resource should be used for support staff which are additional to that which is already provided by the authority.
- The resource should build capacity of education authorities and schools to respond more effectively to the individual needs of children and young people, recognising the empowerment agenda and in the context of Getting it Right for Every Child.
- There will be appropriate reporting in order to secure that there is improvement in the experiences of children and young people with additional support needs.

Funding distribution and allocations - Scottish Government funding for support staff in schools

Local Authority	2019/20
Aberdeen City	£507,000
Aberdeenshire	£775,000
Angus	£326,000
Argyll and Bute	£219,000
Clackmannanshire	£144,000
Dumfries and Galloway	£400,000
Dundee City	£397,000
East Ayrshire	£346,000
East Dunbartonshire	£364,000
East Lothian	£313,000
East Renfrewshire	£364,000
Edinburgh, City of	£1,129,000
Eilean Siar (Western Isles)	£71,000
Falkirk	£474,000
Fife	£1,074,000
Glasgow City	£1,521,000
Highland	£667,000
Inverclyde	£211,000
Midlothian	£288,000
Moray	£257,000
North Ayrshire	£384,000
North Lanarkshire	£1,044,000
Orkney Islands	£60,000
Perth and Kinross	£391,000
Renfrewshire	£507,000
Scottish Borders	£310,000
Shetland Islands	£71,000
South Ayrshire	£305,000
South Lanarkshire	£959,000
Stirling	£269,000
West Dunbartonshire	£268,000
West Lothian	£585,000
SCOTLAND	£15,000,000

