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Os yn galw gofynnwch am - If calling please ask for

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COUNTY COUNCIL
Thursday, 23rd February, 2017

S U P P L E M E N T A R Y P A C K

Response to Supplementary Question

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Agenda Annex

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

County Council
23rd February 2017

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Arwel Jones, Portfolio Holder for Education

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Gary Price

In answer to this recently submitted question

Can the Portfolio Holder for Education clarify if a schools Pupil Deprivation Grant is included as part of its Delegated Budget and therefore must comply with the Powys Scheme for the Financing of Schools?

The Portfolio Holder for Education has given the following answer:

“The Pupil Deprivation grant is included as part of a schools delegated budget, the school is bound by the terms and conditions of the grant and the Scheme for Financing schools which contains the following guidance on grants :

2.12 Grants and central funds

The Authority is authorised to make sums available to schools from central funds, in the form of allocations which are additional to and separate from the schools’ budget shares. Such allocations will be subject to conditions setting out the purpose or purposes for which the funds may be used and, while these conditions need not preclude virement (except where the funding is supported by a specific grant which the Authority itself is not permitted to vire), this should not be carried to the point of assimilating the allocations into the school’s budget share.

Schools are required to maintain their accounting records in such a way as to be able to demonstrate that where appropriate the requirement to spend only on the purpose for which funding is given, and not to vire into the budget share, has been complied with.”

Can I therefore ask the Portfolio Holder for Education to clarify that because the Pupil Deprivation Grant is included as part of a Schools delegated budget it must also comply with regulation 5.2 of the scheme of financing schools and therefore cannot use funds to provide a means of transport for a school?

Answer from County Councillor Arwel Jones, Portfolio Holder for Education

As stated in the scheme for financing schools the section shown below, 2.12 Grants and central funds, states that monies received through the delegated budget in respect of grants should comply with 2.12 of the scheme, the delegated grant funds should be spent in line with the terms and conditions of the grant. Section 5.2 of the

scheme for financing schools and the terms and conditions of pupil deprivation grant allows spend on school activity transport in some cases but not on services which would normally be provided by the authority such as home to school transport.

2.12 Grants and central funds

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Schools are required to maintain their accounting records in such a way as to be able to demonstrate that where appropriate the requirement to spend only on the purpose for which funding is given, and not to vire into the budget share, has been complied with.

Schools are required to account for any grant funding at the end of the financial year and/or at the conclusion of the specific funding allocation. Grant funding must be returned to the Authority if not spent in-year or within the period over which schools are allowed to use the funding, if different.

Supplementary Question

Is the Portfolio Holder content that the delegated decision he made on 8 November to allow a school in the north of the county to use some of its pupil deprivation grant to purchase a minibus with the scheme of the deprivation grant and the scheme for financing school?

The Portfolio Holder for Education has provided the following response:

“I am content that the school is able to purchase a minibus for the purpose of transporting children for school activity as this in compliance with the scheme for financing schools, the school will need to ensure that the use of grant monies in this respect complies with the terms and conditions of the grant.”

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
23rd February 2017**

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Graham Brown, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services and County Councillor Stephen Hayes, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Gemma Bowker

Could the portfolio holders for Adult and Children's Services please provide details as to the statutory level of staff cover out of hours and the staffing patterns used by PCC for out of hours cover; and provide information as to whether there have been any occasions over the past 12 months when that cover has fallen below statutory or safe levels?

Answer from County Councillor Graham Brown, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services and County Councillor Stephen Hayes, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care

Powys County Council have a statutory duty to provide and Out of Hours Service however there is not a specified statutory requirement in respect of the capacity of that service other than the Council would need to be able to meet the local need.

Service users, members of the public and representatives of other agencies are be able to contact the Emergency Duty Team via Powys County Council's Careline between:

- 4.45pm to 8.30am Monday to Thursday
- 4.15pm to 8.30am Friday
- 8.30am to 8.30am Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays

Each shift is staffed by approved mental health professional/social workers one covering the North and the other the South of the county. Workers will cover each other as necessary, based on the demand/priorities in any given shift. If additional cover is needed this is generally found within the existing team or if additional resources are required for specific planned tasks or activities which would not normally fall in the remit of the EDT then this resource would be identified from elsewhere. Should there be an instance when the EDT worker(s) consider the service does not have the capacity needed at any given time and there is an identified risk to the delivery of the service then this would be escalated immediately to Head of Service/Senior Managers (Children's & Adults) who are on call for advice and support out of hours on a rota basis.

The service has not had any instances in the last 12 months where it would have been deemed as unable to deliver as per requirements resulting in an unsafe service.

Supplementary question

“Could the Portfolio Holder tell me what, if anything, is being done to enhance and improve out of hours cover as a result of the integration of Powys Teaching Health Board and are Social Services and Health already working more closely together on out of hours services?”

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care

The answer is that we do not currently have any formal shared arrangement in place. However, our emergency duty team frequently make contact with Health Board out of hours teams, for example when meeting needs under the Mental Health Acts.

As there are a number of different Health Board personnel providing out of hours services, some work would be required to understand and exploit any opportunities that exist, but as we work more closely together it will make increasing sense to do so, and I am grateful to Cllr Bowker for raising the issue for consideration.