

A large, stylized green flower graphic with multiple petals and long, curved leaves, positioned on the right side of the page.

School Intervention Fund Allocation Policy

2021-2022

September 2021

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Identification of need

The [DfE Schools Causing Concern Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities](#) makes the duty of Local Authorities clear and sets out how they should identify those schools that require improvement and intervention.

The Local Authority should intervene early where the performance of a maintained school is declining, ensuring that the school secures the support they need to improve to at least good.

As identified in the Strategy for School Improvement 2021-22, the school intervention budget is used to offer financial support for those primary maintained schools graded as Requiring Improvement (RI) by Ofsted **or**, through Education Team Locality Lead or wider LA evaluation, primary maintained schools identified as at risk of *receiving* a RI judgement if inspected, and whose own financial capacity could be identified as a barrier to rapid improvement.

The intervention budget is a de-delegated budget for primary maintained schools only that requires annual approval from Schools Forum's maintained primary school representatives.

Allocation of funding

Only schools identified as being 'Vulnerable' or 'High Risk' through the Lincolnshire School Improvement Strategy will be eligible to make an application for Intervention Funding.

All Intervention Funding bids should be applied for in conjunction with your Education Team Locality Lead and submitted electronically for approval to EducationTeam@lincolnshire.gov.uk, utilising the agreed *School Intervention Funding Plan* format (see p.6).

All funding to primary schools follows a formal request process which identifies the specific reason for the request, the impact it should have and the actions the school will be taking to address the concerns.

The request also considers the school's own financial capacity to resource the actions for rapid improvement to ensure intervention funding is targeted at schools with greatest financial need.

It is agreed that a maintained primary school can be considered for intervention funding where their prior year ending budget shares carry forward is lower than £20,000 *or* 2.5% of their total budget shares (excluding early years and high needs), whichever is the greater.

Where schools are initially above the thresholds but targeted support has been identified by the Education Locality Leads that brings them below the threshold, schools will be entitled to intervention funding to bring the school back up to the higher of the two thresholds identified. Where appropriate, schools will be invited to submit evidence to demonstrate their current

financial forecast where figures vary from local authority end of year information for consideration.

The Education Team Locality Lead will offer support to the school to identify and broker relevant additional support as required.

Funding will be allocated within the following guidelines:

Activity	Agreed Funding (up to)
Consultancy for improving leadership and management (per day session)	£550 NLE £450 HT
Consultancy for improving teaching and learning (per day session)	£450 HT £350 Leader
Consultancy for improving behaviour, safety and welfare (per day session)	£450 HT £350 Leader
External school review/ supported self-review to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ½ day preparation and ½ day reporting • Number of on-site days to reflect number of classes and detail of activity (maximum 3 days) 	£550 maximum £1650 maximum
External review of Governance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-3 days including a follow up visit to review impact • Shorter health check review available 	£1500 £225 ½ day
Pupil Premium review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-3 days dependent on activities and size of school 	£450 per day

Lincolnshire County Council Intervention Funding for maintained primary schools will be allocated on a monthly basis.

Timescales

Intervention Funding bids must be submitted to the Local Authority by the 3rd day of any given month. The Head of Schools Standards and Head of Education Strategy will review bids within that month.

If a bid is approved, the school will see a budget adjustment by the 18th day of the *following* month.

Budget share adjustments by recharge will only be possible in the second, third and fourth quarters of the financial year. Bids placed and approved in the first quarter will come into effect in July.

Monitoring

Maintained schools identified by Ofsted as less than Good; or judged through LA evaluation as vulnerable or high risk of a poor inspection outcome. These schools will be monitored rigorously and challenged regularly to ensure that the resource is bringing about rapid improvement.

Impact will be evaluated by Education Team Locality Leads and reported to Heads of Service.

Eligibility check

Lincolnshire County Council Intervention Funding	
Criteria	✓
Maintained primary school	
Identified on Nexus as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable (Yellow) • High Risk (Amber) • Pre or Formal Warning in place (Amber/Red) • Ofsted category (Red) 	
Is the school prior year ending budget share carry forward below the thresholds identified of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £20,000 <i>or</i> • 2.5% of their total budget shares 	
Evidence provided to demonstrate current financial forecast which demonstrates this is a barrier to accessing support.	

Additional Lincolnshire County Council policies and guidance can be found [here](#)

- Strategy for School Improvement
- Engagement with Academies Protocol
- Protocol for the Allocation of Interim Heads

Documents for working

- Intervention Funding Form

					Lincolnshire County Council use only		
School name:					Is the school risk assessed as Vulnerable or High Risk:	Yes / No	
Reason(s) for requiring School Intervention Funding:					Was the previous year's CF lower than £20K or 2.5% of budget share:	Yes / No	
					Date plan received:		
					Approved:	Yes / No	
					Copy sent to Schools Finance:	Yes / No	
Date plan completed:					Date plan returned to the school:		
<p>Notes</p> <p>This plan should be completed by the school in consultation with the school's Education Locality Lead and submitted electronically for approval to EducationTeam@lincolnshire.gov.uk.</p> <p>Lincolnshire County Council Intervention Applications must be submitted to the Local Authority by the 3rd day of any given month. If an application is approved, the school will see a budget adjustment by the 18th day of the <i>following</i> month.</p>							
Key actions	Lead Person	Resources/	Costs	Timescale	Monitoring Who and How?	Success Criteria	Evaluation
Total Intervention Funding Bid							
This plan should be evaluated following completion of all the actions and a copy of the evaluated plan returned to Lincolnshire County Council.							