

MEETING	SCHOOLS FINANCE FORUM
DATE	25 JUNE 2013
TITLE	Schools' Service Level Agreements
PURPOSE	Explain the content of the agreements
RECOMMENDATION	Accept the agreements
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CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION	Councillor Sian Gwenllian

Service Level Agreements (SLA) are presented for –

Repairs and Maintenance Secondary Schools

Changes to the SLA (secondary)

1. Last year's Maintenance SLA has been extended for a year. The new SLA has now been completed and a representation of secondary headteachers have commented on it.
2. Responsibilities for funding various school buildings maintenance elements are contained in the Fair Funding Agreement. Basic changes to the SLA cannot therefore be made.
3. Over the years, several Headteachers have said that the current SLA is a laborious and difficult to interpret document. It was a 43 page document that contained a 22 page table detailing responsibilities for detailed elements of the building!
4. The document by its very nature, often caused a misunderstanding and differences of opinion between Headteachers and those who organized maintenance work.
5. The new SLA is therefore a much simpler document and tries to summarize everything in about 10 pages. A 5 page table has replaced the lengthy list contained in the former document. The table now notes what the Council is responsible for. Unless an element of a building is included in this table, then the School will automatically be responsible for it.
6. As regards the specific responsibilities, the only change is that the Council now accepts responsibility for funding disposal of asbestos from lorries when the School wishes to install new flooring. In the former

agreement, the school was responsible for all this work - leading to a failure to complete the work as it could not be done without first of all disposing of the asbestos, and the Schools found this unaffordable. We therefore hope that this change will be welcomed.

7. The only other change is the establishment of an e-mail address and a phone number for any enquiry related to building matters. From now on, everything can be referred to eiddo@gwynedd.gov.uk or tel 01286 679059.
8. The system of responding to calls for maintenance work has recently been fully reviewed, and by the time that the new SLA is up and running, a new system will be implemented throughout the County. From now on, the Service will come under the Council Customer Care Department instead of the Consultancy Department as was the case over the past 5 years. We trust that Headteachers will see a service that clearly focuses on their "client" requirements.

The Learning Needs Team

The SLA for the Learning Needs Team outlines the service offered to schools by the specialist teachers' team. This includes assessing needs, tracking progress, devising and delivering learning intervention programmes in literacy, numeracy, speech and communication difficulties, dyslexia, and basic skills. The team also offer training programmes in various areas for school staff, parents and governors. Annual reports are presented to the LA on an annual basis about the progress of pupils open to the service.

This year's SLA has been adapted to reflect clearly an understanding of the monitoring responsibilities associated with the delegation of this funding, either through the SLA or the school's use of the funding to meet pupils SEN needs.

Integration (88 schools)

The Integration SLA outlines the SEN/ALN services supplied to schools by the LA, including the resources needed to respond appropriately to pupil needs regardless of the time of year that they may be registered as pupils at that school. The present SLA will be offered to schools for the next year, until the Strategic Review of SEN/ALN is completed.

Governors' Clerk

There is a new requirement for LEA's to establish a Clerk to the Governors Service that would be available to those schools who wish to receive it. The service is required to be available from September 2013.

The SLA costs £800 and takes into account the cost of employing the clerk and additional costs involved in advertising, training, administering clerk placements and organizing supply cover clerks when running the central service.

Several schools have already declared an interest in the SLA.