



Appendix A – De-Delegations Service Update

Access Budget Software

Access Education Budgets is a cloud-based school budgeting and financial planning system designed for schools, academies, and multi-academy trusts. It supports budget creation, forecasting (up to five years), scenario planning, salary modelling, and financial reporting. It can also be integrated with other school systems.

The current contract is due to expire 25th April 2027. There is an option to extend for 12 months.

Free School Meals Eligibility

Eligibility checks to confirm entitlement to FSM. Data is processed on our system, notifications issued to schools along with real time access system for schools to check eligibility dates.

FSM legislation is changing from 01/09/2026 so increased work required to establish pupils who meet the new criteria and annual checks on eligibility for all pupils.

English Additional Language Service

The EAL team provides advice and support to Herefordshire schools. The Service Offer to LA Maintained Schools includes:

- Assessments (EAL, First Language, CAML (7-15 year olds), Teddy Talk and Teddy Talk in First Language
- Interventions for Nursery pupils (using Teddy Talk), primary pupils and secondary pupils – 1:1 or group
- Bilingual Story time – Nursery and Key Stage 1 pupils
- Parent Engagement Sessions at school events (such as coffee mornings, wellbeing events, etc)
- Support at meetings with school and parents
- Polish Exam Preparation (chargeable)
- Polish Speaking Exam Delivery (chargeable)
- Child Observation (Nursery and Key Stage 1)
- Training for school staff (face to face, online and inset/twilight training)
- Advice and Guidance via email
- Weekly EAL Telephone Advice Line

This offer is available to Academy Schools as a traded service.

Ukrainian and Afghani pupils at Academy settings are able to access the service at no further charge due to HFU (Homes for Ukraine) and Afghani Resettlement Project funding.

Trade Unions Facilities Time

The local authority provides facilities time to recognised trade unions to comply with the need for employers to have appropriate arrangements for trade union recognition, consultation and negotiation.

Primary schools voted to de-delegate funding to the local authority, whereas secondary schools voted not to de-delegate so can buy back the service via an SLA arrangement.

School Improvement Service

The School Improvement Service provides strategic leadership, challenge, and support to schools to secure and sustain high-quality education outcomes for all pupils. The service works in partnership with maintained schools, and other stakeholders to promote continuous improvement, raise standards, and ensure statutory duties in relation to education quality and inclusion are met.

The service offers a range of core functions, including:

- Monitoring and Quality Assurance
- Regular engagement with schools to review performance data, self-evaluation, leadership capacity, and the quality of teaching and learning. This includes risk assessment and identification of schools requiring additional support or intervention.
- Challenge and Intervention
- Provision of appropriate challenge to school leaders and governing bodies where performance concerns are identified, including coordinating and leading on formal intervention where necessary in line with statutory guidance.
- Advisory Support and Capacity Building
- Targeted advice and support to senior leaders, governors, and staff on school improvement priorities, including curriculum development, leadership, teaching practice, and outcomes for vulnerable groups.
- Support for Vulnerable Learners and Inclusion
- Collaboration with wider services (e.g. SEND, attendance, behaviour, and safeguarding) to ensure schools are effectively supporting pupils at risk of underachievement or exclusion.
- Facilitation of School-to-School Support
- Brokerage of partnerships between schools, including access to system leaders, strong practitioners, and multi-academy trust support where appropriate.
- Preparation for Inspection and Compliance
- Support to ensure schools are prepared for inspection (e.g. Ofsted) and are meeting statutory and regulatory requirements.
- Strategic System Leadership
- Contribution to local authority education strategy, identifying system-wide priorities, and coordinating improvement activity across the school system.

Contingencies

The contingency de-delegated budget is a relatively small allocation that was originally intended to support areas such as shortfalls arising from academy conversions, unexpected costs (including census errors and employment tribunal costs etc).

Given the historic agreement regarding its purpose, it would be beneficial to review this budget to align it to a more defined and relevant scope.

Inclusion Outreach Team (previously Behaviour Support Service)

The Inclusion Outreach Service is a key part of the Local Inclusion Support Offer, designed in response to feedback from schools to provide quicker support and more practical help in classrooms.

The team includes advisory teachers and intervention specialists working across domains:

- social, emotional and mental health
- communication and interaction
- cognition and learning needs

Support is accessed through a single referral route. Advisory teachers provide assessment, planning and guidance, while intervention specialists deliver hands-on support in classrooms, modelling strategies and working alongside staff. The service focuses on coaching staff, providing short-term pupil support where needed, and ensuring inclusive approaches are embedded in everyday practice.