

Brighton & Hove City Council

Meeting: Schools' Forum

Date: Wednesday 15 January 2020

Report of: Schools' Traded Services Manager

Subject: Services to Schools 2020/21

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To provide the final position on the council's traded services to schools provision for 2020/21, including an outline of the proposed charging approach and details of any new services and provision.
- 1.2. To outline key developments, activities and feedback from the past year in relation to traded services.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To note and comment on the proposed approach for the council's services to schools provision for 2020/21.

3. Background and information

- 3.1. In recent years the council has sought to minimise the price uplift, provide more clarity on the pricing mechanism used to calculate charges and also the benefits of each service.
- 3.2. In recent years the intention has been for services to absorb inflationary costs as much as possible and to limit the amount that is passed on to schools. However, it has previously been acknowledged that price rises have been required when external charges such as teacher pay, licence costs and fuel costs have risen.
- 3.3. Two new SLAs were introduced in 2019/20:
 - 3.3.1. The Safeguarding Training (Single Agency) Service achieved full buyback from schools, enabling headteachers and designated safeguarding leads to attend the relevant courses when required, for one single charge per year. An overhaul of the training has been made for 2020/21, with separate courses for designated safeguarding leads and headteachers, to acknowledge the different roles.
 - 3.3.2. Brighton & Hove Inclusion Support Service (BHISS) started trading in September 2019 and achieved 98% buyback from primary and

secondary schools. For 2020/21, schools have received details of their individual charges for the full year, taking into account their requirements. Charges are similar to 2019/20, with the daily charge no longer dependent on amount of days purchased as this had disadvantaged the smaller schools.

4. Proposal for charges for Services to Schools 2020/21

4.1. All charging models are based on cost recovery only with no profit. Any uplifts are to cover increased costs (see 3.3).

4.2. The following services are making no uplifts:

- Caretaking & Site Management
- Equality & Anti-Bullying
- GDPR & Information Governance
- Health & Safety
- Local Authority Strategic Property Function (CERA)
- Newly Qualified Teachers' Induction
- Occupational Health
- Outdoor Education & PE Support
- PSHE
- Safeguarding Training (Single Agency)
- School Data
- School Meals

4.3. The following services are making changes to their charges:

- BHISS: 2.5% uplift for most parts of the service and simplified charging model (see 3.4.2 above); Literacy Support – uplift tbc
- Courier: 8% uplift to bring in line with other customers (schools have been charged less in recent years) – equates to £18 increase per year for schools that have weekly deliveries/collections
- Energy & Water Management: reduction due to removal of third party Automated Meter Reading charges, plus a reduction in management charges and service support charges due to reduced usage
- Ethnic Minority Achievement Service: 3% uplift
- Finance: 2% uplift
- Human Resources Advisory & Guidance: 1% uplift
- Human Resources Admin & Payroll: 3% uplift
- ICT Schools & Traded Services: 1.9% uplift on most parts of the service
- Legal: approx 2.5% uplift
- Long Term Sickness / Maternity, Adoption & Paternity Scheme: charge increased due to cost of additional claims in previous and current year

4.4. SLAs and charges will be published by the end of January so that schools can make informed decisions about buyback when budget planning for 2020/21. Service leads will have the usual discussions with schools throughout the buyback period up to 1 April 2020.

5. New services and developments

5.1. Following feedback from schools during 2019/20, the Education, Standards and Achievement Service is proposing to split its support into two Service Level Agreements in 2020/21, as it is recognised that schools want more flexibility into what they buy and do not buy. Schools will now be able to choose the level of support according to their exact requirements, based on a daily charge. Furthermore, the statutory offer from the LA has been clarified with consistency in offer between secondary and primary.

The SLA provision will be split into two areas:

5.1.1. The Headteacher Appraisal External Adviser Service will enable governing bodies to receive the appropriate external advice to fulfil their statutory duty in carrying out the headteacher's annual appraisal (one day of support)

5.1.2. The School Partnership Adviser (SPA) Service will provide schools with bespoke school improvement support from SPAs (schools can choose between one and three days per year)

5.2. ICT Schools and Traded Services are introducing a new service for 2020/21: 'Online Safety Monitoring Services' will enable schools to meet the appropriate monitoring element within 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'. Software is installed that monitors and captures all potentially harmful digital content, activity or behaviour, alerting the Designated Safeguarding Lead appropriately.

5.3. Following feedback from headteachers at Schools' Forum, the SLAs for 2020/21 will outline in more detail the statutory and core elements for each service. These aspects of the services are provided at no cost to schools.

5.4. The BEEM portal for schools, which hosts the SLAs and enables business managers to purchase the services, is being further developed for 2020/21. The 'Services' area <http://www.beem.org.uk/Services> will act as a 'one stop shop' that lists all traded and non-traded local authority services that are available to schools.