

SCHOOLS FORUM – 17TH MARCH 2016

S251 BENCHMARKING DATA - 2015-16

Introduction

The purpose of the report is to advise School Forum members where they can access benchmarking costing information about the Local Authority spend on educational activities and see how this compares to the national average.

Background

Each year the Council has to complete two returns to the DfE. These returns are referred to as the S251 returns and are completed in respect of the new financial year budget and the outturn of the previous financial year. The return requires spend covering both DSG and non DSG funded activities. From these returns the DfE compiles summary information on spend per capita which enables Councils to see their spend on activities compared to the national average.

As with any return completion there will always be interpretation discretion and particular local circumstance why the results might be what they are but the information can act as a good guide.

The information is public domain and the S251's submitted to the DfE are posted on the Council's website. For members who wish to see the benchmarking data this can be found at:

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk

Recommendations

There are no specific recommendations arising from the report. The report has been prepared to provide members with information to assist with understanding.

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