Frequently Asked Questions
NLE/NSS bursary for financial year 2019/20

Q: How do I claim funding under the new terms and conditions of the NSS bursary?

A: NLE deployments to support schools under the Department's School Improvement Offer will be reimbursed in September 2019 or February 2020, following confirmation that their deployment(s) has been completed, and we will provide further details on this in due course.

For NLE deployments to support schools outside of the School Improvement offer (undertaken between 1 April 2019 and 1 September 2019), funding will be reimbursed in September 2019 and will provide further details on the process for making these claims in due course.

Q: **What other funding streams are available for NLEs to continue to provide school improvement support?**

A: The new conditions permit up to £2,000 of school improvement activity until 31st August 2019 to support schools outside of the Department's School Improvement Offer.

In addition, the Emergency Fund remains open for NLEs, teaching Schools and MATs to apply to support individual schools where there is:

- unexpected or imminent failure
- unexpected withdrawal of planned/existing support to address failure/imminent failure

Details of the Emergency Fund and how to apply can be found on GOV.UK.

We recognise that NLEs also provide valuable support to schools in the system in other contexts, for example through SSIF funding, as well as direct arrangements with schools (for example, as Pupil Premium reviewers) and NLEs will be able to continue these activities during FY19/20.

Q: What happens if I am already committed to supporting a school/schools in the Summer Term outside of the Department's School Improvement Offer?

A: Where an NLE is already committed to providing support outside of the school improvement offer, this should not exceed the £2,000 limit between 1 April 2019 and 1st September 2019. We will review funding arrangements for the period beyond this (the Academic Year 19/20) and confirm these in due course.

Q: Will I be de-designated if I am not deployed by the TSC to support schools under the department's School Improvement Offer?

A: No, provided that the NLE continues to meet the eligibility criteria and is able to evidence that they are providing school improvement support within the period (for example, through supporting Department funded programmes such as; SSIF, Emergency Fund, NPQs, Tailored Support Programmes, Pupil Premium Reviewers etc.)

Q: Will the Department provide any additional funding if an NLE is matched and deployed by TSC to support a tier 1 school that is some distance away from where they are based (i.e. their National Support School)?

A: Yes, where an NLE is matched and deployed by the TSC to support a tier 1 school greater than 45miles or 1hr travel from their home school (National Support School) the Department will permit an increase of £100 in the day rate to £600 per day.

Q: Are all system leader grants being moved to a payment in arrears process?

A: No. The payment in arrears process for grant funding is the direction of travel for the Department following NAO recommendations and feedback from a range of school. The Department has decided to start with lower value grants, where schools have indicated that payment in arrears would not be financially detrimental to the school. Due to the value of the Teaching School core grant, we would want to consult further on moving to an arrears approach and therefore for AY 19/20, it will continue to be paid in advance.

Q: Why do the new grant funding terms provide a 'notional allocation of up to 18 days' to support school under the department's School Improvement Offer?

A: The 18 days is a notional number within which an NLE may support six tier 1 deployments (3 days for each tier 1 school). This upper limit allows scope for multiple deployments without the need for any grant variations. **It is not** a guaranteed level of funding nor aimed at setting an expectation of the numbers of days an NLE would need to commit to: the number of deployments undertaken under the offer will depend on each NLE's capacity and the degree to which their experience and skills matches that of the schools needing support.

Q: What are the implications of these new terms and conditions for NLEs in receipt of additional £1.5k top-up within the 2018-19 bursary?

A: NLEs in receipt of additional £1.5k top-up within their 2018-19 bursary are able to continue to utilise this funding to provide support tier 1 support to 'at risk' schools as defined by the Department until end of July 2019**.**