



Provision for Ethnic Minority and Bilingual Pupils

A Summary of Findings from a Freedom of Information Request

May 2011

I. Background

The NUT and the National Association of Language Development in the Curriculum (NALDIC) have been very concerned at the impact that mainstreaming Ethnic Minority Achievement funding and local authority funding difficulties have been having on support for ethnic minority and bilingual pupils. The NUT and NALDIC published the outcomes of a national survey in February 2011 which indicated that not all local authorities have supported the legitimate retention of the £150,000 or 15% hold back of the EMA grant from the DSG. In some cases this has signalled the end of centrally funded EAL/EMA services.

The survey identified many negative impacts of such decisions including: a reduction in pupil support; a reduction in availability and a rise in costs of valued additional school based work such as interpretation or home school liaison; a shortage of knowledgeable specialists when demand is rising; reduction in training opportunities and capacity building projects in schools; and a disproportionate impact on less well funded schools. This has led to deterioration in the quality and/or availability of support for ethnic minority pupils and students.

In March, the NUT and NALDIC made a joint freedom of information request to all local authorities in England seeking the following information:

- 1) Whether the local authority has agreed to continue to hold back the £150,000 or 15% of the EMAG grant from the DSG and/or made other funding available to maintain central services;
- 1) Details of any changes to centrally employed teams working across EAL and ethnic minority achievement issues for 2011/12 and beyond;
- 2) Whether the authority has undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment on these changes. (If so, local authorities were asked to enclose a copy of the assessment with its response to the FOI request.)

II. Summary of Main Findings

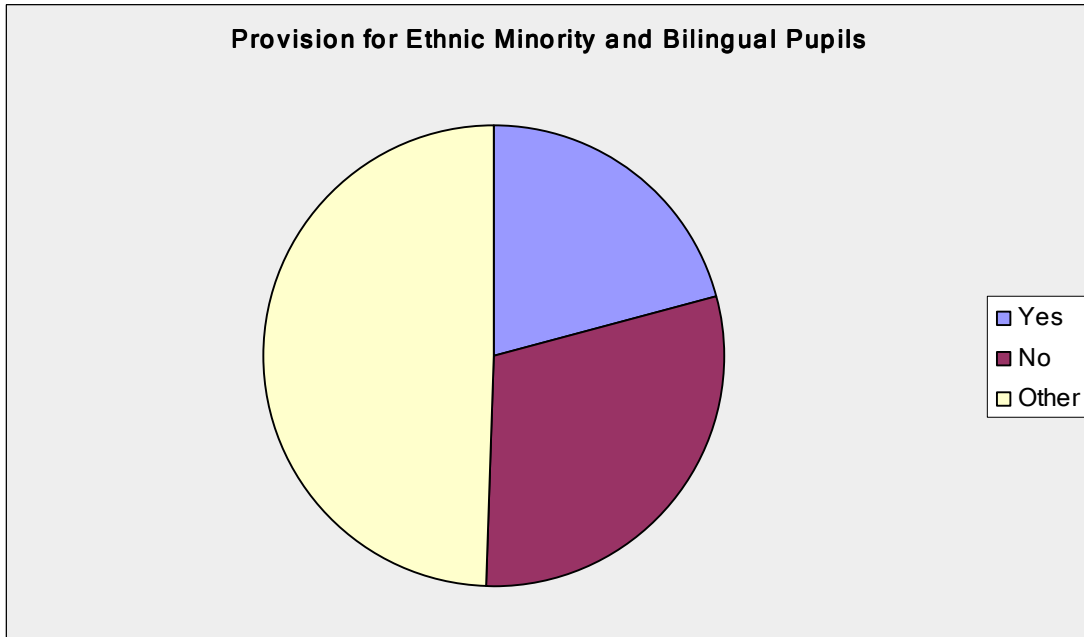
103 responses were received out of a possible 154. The numbers responding to each question, however, vary.

III. EMAG and the DSG

When asked whether their local authority had agreed to continue to hold back £150,000 or 15% of the EMAG grant from the DSG and/or made other funding available to maintain central services, 20.8% of respondents said yes, 29.7% of respondents said no, 49.5% of respondents said other and 2 respondents skipped this question.

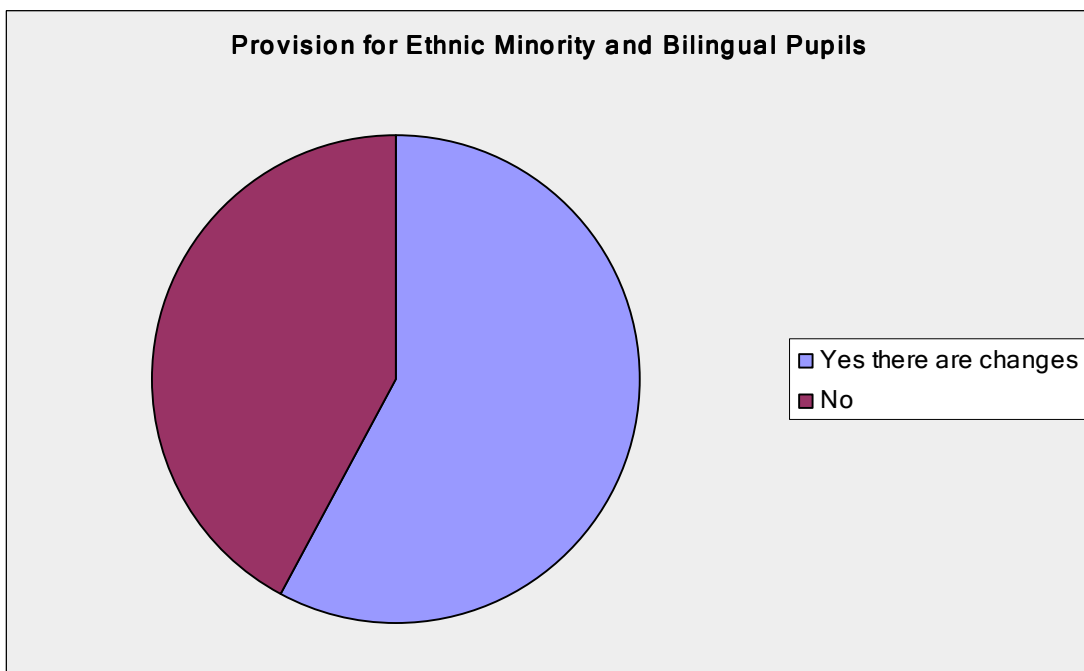
For those who chose to comment further on the matter, some answers include:

- The Schools' Forum did not agree to continue to hold back the 15%. Currently negotiating an SLA to maintain a central service.
- The local authority schools' budget consultation for 2011/12 proposed the central retention of funds to cover cost of a team of staff previously funded through EMAG. This proposal wasn't supported by the majority of schools. Consequently, the Schools' Forum confirmed the decision that funds should not be centrally retained at its meeting on 7th February 2011.
- The Schools' Forum took the decision to devolve the full value of the EMA Grant across its schools. In recognition that the grant is most effectively used when it is targeted at schools with specific needs, it was agreed that the full grant would be ring-fenced. The agreed formula for devolving the grant would be applied to the value of the grant in 2011/12. In this way schools with the highest numbers of underachieving BME pupils will receive EMA funding in the coming year. While the local authority no longer retains 15% of the value of the grant it continues to invest in excess of £1m of its own funding to provide central services which support schools to close the underachievement gap for their BME pupils. Adviser support with expertise in BME underachievement will continue to be available to schools along with centrally funded posts to support equality issues in schools, a BME advocacy service, school and community partnerships and EAL learners.
- A consultation exercise has been undertaken with all maintained schools. The outcome from this proposed that centrally EMA from DSG would be returned to the overall DSG 'pot' for allocation to schools. Schools would then buy the services that they specifically require or deliver the service 'in house'. The Schools' Forum will consider this further at its next meeting.
- An agreement has been made by the Schools Funding Formula Group that the money that replaced the EMAG grant in the DSG is to be retained centrally for this financial year. There have been no definitive figures given as yet for the remainder of the money that funds the service. The Minority Communities Achievement service is part of a broader group, Learners with Additional Needs which includes the Specialist Teaching Service. LAN is part of the restructuring process that is taking place within the LA.



IV. Changes to centrally employed teams working across EAL and ethnic minority achievement issues for 2011/12 and beyond

57.8% of respondents indicated that there were changes to centrally employed teams working across EAL and ethnic minority achievement issues for 2011/2012 and beyond. 42.2% indicated that there were no changes planned and one local authority did not respond to this question.

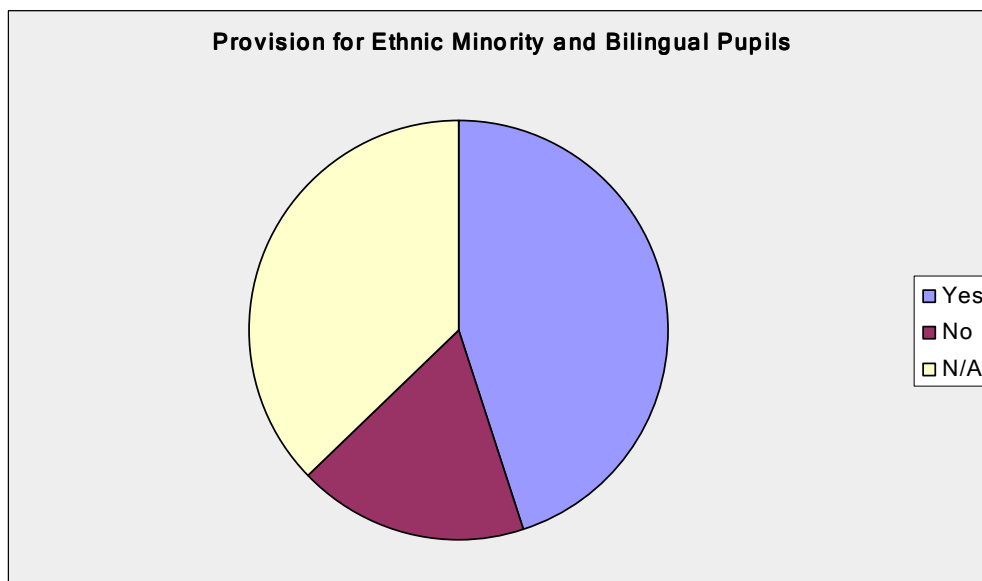


Respondents were asked to give details if their response was 'yes' to this question. 79 respondents gave details of their changes, which included the following:

- The current structure consists of a small core team of senior lead teachers with an additional team of teachers, instructors and teaching assistants who are bought back by some of the schools receiving EMAG. The proposed new structure consists of a small core team of staff to support Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic, English as an Additional Language and Gypsy Roma Traveller work across schools, supplemented by a variety of targeted commissioned projects.
- The local authority is developing specialist schools to deliver support for EAL and GR&T pupils and families. We will retain a small core team to work with the specialist schools, to support engagement with schools and to remove barriers to attendance.
- There is a central pool of head teachers focusing on EAL and ethnic minority achievement. These teachers continue to offer support to schools. There have been no changes to the structure of this service.
- The proposed changes involved in the re-design of services supporting EAL and Ethnic minority achievement is a reduction of one post.

V. Equality Impact Assessment

Respondents were asked whether their authority had undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment on these changes.



As demonstrated in the pie chart above 17.6% of the respondents had not undertaken an equality impact assessment whilst 45.1% had. 37.3 % responded that this question was not applicable to their local authority. 25 respondents commented. Some comments are as follows:

- An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out and is enclosed. Since the date of this, an increase in local authority funding has occurred to pay for a translation service over and above that used by schools.

- An analysis of the impact of the changes on the gender balance of the service was done, but no further EIA was undertaken.
- An initial Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken. The initial assessment indicated that the proposed service change would not have an adverse impact on any equality group.

36 respondents have sent in a copy of the Equality Impact Assessment, with 57 respondents skipping this question.

VI. Summary of Findings

Although a vast majority selected 'other' when questioned about the hold back of the EMAG grant, a significant number stated that their authority has not agreed to continue to hold back the £150,000 or the EMAG grant from the DSG funding.

A majority of the local authorities state that there are changes to centrally employed teams for 2011/12 and beyond. New structures are being implemented in schools.

Although 36 respondents have sent in their Equality Impact Assessments, many have stressed that they are currently undertaking these assessments or have not yet been finalised therefore copies are not currently available.

APPENDIX

Local Authorities which responded

Barking and Dagenham
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Bath and North East Somerset
Bexley
Birmingham City Council
Blackburn with Darwen
Blackpool
Bournemouth
Bracknell Forest
Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Brighton & Hove City Council
Bristol
Buckinghamshire County Council
Bury Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
Cheshire West and Chester Council
Coventry City Council
Cumbria County Council
Derby City Council
Derbyshire
Devon County Council
Dorset County Council
Dudley
Durham County Council
East Riding of Yorkshire
East Sussex County Council
Essex County Council
Gloucestershire County Council
Greenwich Council
Hackney Council - The Learning Trust
Haringey
Hartlepool
Havering
Herefordshire
Hertfordshire
Hillingdon
Isles of Scilly
Kensington and Chelsea
Kent County Council
Kingston upon Thames
Leicester City Council
Leicestershire County Council

Lewisham
Lincolnshire
Liverpool
London Borough of Enfield
London Borough of Hounslow
Manchester City Council
Medway Council
Merton
Middlesbrough
Milton Keynes
Newcastle upon Tyne
Newham
Newport City Council
Norfolk County Council
North Lincolnshire Council
North Somerset Council
North Yorkshire
Northamptonshire County Council
Oxfordshire County Council
Plymouth City Council
Poole
Portsmouth City Council
Reading Borough Council
Redbridge
Richmond upon Thames
Rochdale
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Salford City Council
Sandwell
Sefton Council
Sheffield
Shropshire
Slough Borough Council
Solihull
Somerset County Council
South Tyneside Council
Southampton
St Helens
Stockport
Suffolk County Council
Sunderland
Surrey
Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
Torbay Council
Tower Hamlets

Trafford
Wakefield
Wandsworth Council
Warrington Borough Council
Warwickshire
West Berkshire District Council
West Sussex
Westminster City Council
Wigan
Windsor and Maidenhead
Wirral
Wokingham
Wolverhampton
York