**Report to Hartlepool Schools’ Forum 11 October 2019**

**From Penny Thompson – Head of Service, The Children’s Hub and Partnerships**

# Agenda Item 5 – Funding for Designated Education Officer

1. **Purpose of Report**

1.1 To propose a funding option for the Designated Education Officer (DEO) for 2020/21.

**2. Background**

2.1 At Schools’ Forum on the 7 May 2019, members agreed to fund the Designated Education Officer post for 2019/20 from the Trade Union reserve. Discussion did take place at this meeting whether to agree funding from this reserve for two years but Forum representatives felt that this would require consultation with colleagues.

2.2 At Schools’ Forum on the 13 September 2019, following confirmation of the projected Trade Union reserve, it was proposed to fund the 2020/21 costs of the Designated Education Officer from the Trade Union reserve.

**3. Trade Union Reserve**

3.1 Owing to historic underspends against the trade union de-delegated service in recent years, there is now a significant reserve balance. The current reserve balance for trade union de-delegation is £38k. This balance is after funding the Designated Education Officer post for 2019/20. It is likely that a further underspend in the region of £13k during 2019/20 will be added to the current reserve balance, giving a projected reserve of £51k.

3.2 Estimated funding of £19k is required to fund the Designated Education Officer post for 2020/21. If the reserve was used a projected balance of £32k would be left to fund any Union activity for 2020/21.

**4. Recommendations**

4.1 Schools Forum is asked to fund the 2020/21 Designated Education Officer post using the Trade Union Reserve.

 **Please note: ALL Forum Members are eligible to vote**