

School Improvement Officer  
Monitoring and Improvement  
Grant  
(SMIG)

- 1) The SMIG used to be paid directly to the LA – this year 50% went to schools and 50% the LA. Next year 100% will go to school who have the option at Schools Forum to give it back to the LA
- 2) The grant has been used to pay for SIO's in the primary, special and secondary phases
- 3) The proposal is that instead of the LA asking for the money to be refunded that schools should take responsibility for using the money in the way that they choose to bring about improvement.

#### Advantages

- a) Schools will be at liberty to employ who they want and as often as they like
- b) The money could be used more imaginatively to bring about improvement

#### Disadvantages

- A) Potentially no independent objective assessment of the quality of provision
- B) The LA would no longer 'know its schools'
- C) This will mean that when Ofsted inspect LA Officers would no longer be able to give a detailed feedback on the qualities of the school
- D) When HMI make contact about a complaint it will not be possible to speak with authority on issues such as behaviour, safeguarding, bullying etc.
- E) Weaker schools may choose not to use the funding well, leading to a further diminution in the quality of education