



SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING MINUTES

HELD ON 11th February 2021

8.30am

Microsoft Teams meeting

Position	Attendee	22 October 2020	10 December 2020	14 January 2021	10 February 2021	16 June 2021
Chairing the meeting						
Chair	Brian Peacock / Diane Atkinson	✓	✓	A	✓	
Vice Chair	Diane Atkinson / Michelle Smith	✓	A	✓	✓	
18 School Members	Appointed Members					
8 Maintained School reps:						
Maintained Secondary Head	Peter Tite	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Maintained Primary Head	Rob Andrew		A	✓	✓	
Maintained Primary Head	Susan Aldred	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Maintained Primary Head	Michelle Smith	✓	A	✓	✓	
Maintained Primary Head	Carolyn Morris	✓	A	✓	✓	
Maintained Primary Head	Vicky Brown		✓	✓	A	
Maintained Special Head	Rick Robinson	✓	✓		✓	
Maintained Infant School Head	Gillian Crompton	✓	✓	A	✓	
Maintained PRU Head	Vicki Michael	R	✓	✓	✓	
2 Free School reps:						
Free School Head	Claire Gammon	A	A	A	A	
Alt' Provision Free School Head	Gary Holding	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4 Academy reps:						
Secondary Academy Head	Dean Logan		✓	✓	✓	
Secondary Academy Head	Diane Atkinson	✓	✓	A	✓	
Primary Academy Head	Donna Simpson	A	✓	A	A	
Special Academy Head	Jen Ashworth	✓			✓	
4 Governors:						
Secondary Governor	Gillian Yates	A	✓	✓		
Primary Governor	Brian Peacock / Vacant					
Primary Governor	Pauline Lovick	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Primary Governor	Helen Holden	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4 Non-school members:						
Teacher Unions	Simon Jones	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Non-Teaching Unions	Paul Crewe	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Post 16 FE College	Fazal Dad / Elissa Best	✓✓	✓✓	✓ / A	✓ / A	
Early Years Provider	Tracy Ellett					
Schools Forum Members present		15	16	15	17	
<i>Quorate 40% of filled posts</i>		<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>
In Attendance						
LA Officers	Jenny Hackett	✓	✓	✓	✓	
LA Officers	Kirsten Reid	✓	✓	✓	✓	
LA Officers	Jayne Ivory / Carol Grimshaw / Alison Ashworth- Taylor			✓		
LA Officers	Jo Siddle	✓	✓	✓	✓	
LA Officers	Simon Ross	✓	✓	✓		
LA Officers	Safiyya Mulla	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Council Members	Cllr Julie Gunn					
LA Officers	Corrine McMillan					
Total		5	5	6	4	

1. Welcome and introductions

Diane Atkinson (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Vicky Brown, Claire Gammon, Donna Simpson and Elissa Best.

2. Minutes from the previous meeting

It was agreed that the minutes from 14th January 2021 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Approved by Simon Jones and seconded by Jo Siddle

3. Matters arising

JH mentioned that at the last meeting School Reserves Policy was discussed and it has been decided to waive any potential clawback this year. Headteachers and School Business Managers have been informed.

4. Membership for 2020/21 academic year

There is still a vacancy for a school governor rep. JH has spoken to Andrew Hutchinson and Andrew will add something in the governor's report this term. JH delivers governor training for Governor Services and it will be raised at the training session.

5. High Needs funding for 2021/22

At the last meeting, it was agreed for a transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block. We now know what our total high needs funding is.

The table in 3.3 summarises the funding available to the LA to provide high needs services. The table in 3.4 is the funding given directly to academies.

In section 4, it specifies the High Needs Block funding proposals for each type of setting.

The table in 5.1 shows how the High Needs Block is being allocated now. The allocation for the SEN Emergency Fund is less than the 0.5% transfer because, as agreed, some of this has been used to create the £1m growth contingency. There are still EHCPs coming through and these numbers are always changing but the Emergency Fund budget will not change from the figure published here, the growth contingency will be adjusted as required between now and the start of the new financial year when budgets are fixed.

6. Early Years funding for 2021/22

The vast majority of funding in this block goes to early years providers. This funding allocation is based on census data in January 2020, and will be adjusted during the summer to reflect the January 2021 census.

The DfE hourly rates applied have increased by 6p for 3-4 year-olds and by 8p for 2 year-olds, and we are proposing to pass that increase onto providers in full.

JS mentioned that increasing the 2 year-old take-up is a target; not that we haven't got places for 2 year-olds; it's just that parents don't send the children. There is a lot of work ongoing. JH mentioned that there are ongoing discussions about the possibility of using a small amount of funding to help encourage the take-up of 2 year old places.

JH explained that some funding is retained centrally and funding proposals must show a pass-through rate of at least 95%; we are well within the limits.

7. Central School Services funding for 2021/22

The Central School Services block is split into 2 elements; residual funding for historical commitments and Retained Duties element previously funded by the Education Services Grant.

The funding for historical commitments is reducing, and one budget affected is the funding for the SIG groups. JS mentioned that what we don't want is to lose the School Improvement Groups. One option for 2021/22 is to fund maintained schools at the same level but this would leave no funding for academies. Or we could reduce the funding to all schools across the board. To probably discuss at the School Improvement Board meetings and to discuss with the SIG leads.

FD asked if we are aware of the impact on the mainstream schools when the capital contribution (another historic commitment) is reduced. JH responded that it is quite a small element of overall capital funding for schools. We get funding from the DfE and historically we just used this budget to top that up. Every year we look at how much funding we have available for capital projects and prioritise accordingly. JS also explained that we have to present the capital programme funding to the council. In addition, schools get their own small capital pots and have plans for themselves.

JS mentioned that it would be beneficial for the schools to have the Synergy module to support with FSM assessment. JH responded that the FSM money of £37,000 won't be required every year and can be used for something else in future years.

	For	Against	Abstained	Total
Approval for funding arrangements at 4.6 <i>Voted by all school reps</i>	14			14

8. Policy for the allocation of the growth fund

JH explained that this policy covers situations where the LA asks schools to take on additional places at the start of a school year, and sets out how the schools will receive the money. If a school is asked to increase their numbers in September, for maintained schools it will be 7 months before they receive any funding in their budget for the additional pupils and for academies it will be 12 months before they receive any funding in their budget for the additional pupils. The policy seeks to provide funding to cover that lag.

	For	Against	Abstained	Total
Approval for growth fund policy <i>Mainstream school reps</i>	10			10

9. Any Other Business

JS would like to thank Peter for mentioning this. Schools have previously paid into LSCB in the past and now we have moved to Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP). Schools will not be being charged this time however somehow CSAP have directed invoices to schools. So if you are an academy and have received an invoice please ignore it and as for maintained schools they have had money taken out and this will be refunded.

10. Dates for future meetings

16th June 2021
13th October 2021
8th December 2021
12th January 2022
9th February 2022