



Sandwell

Metropolitan Borough Council

Minutes of the Schools Forum

Held on Monday 22nd February 2016 at 5.00 p.m.

Committee Room 2, Oldbury

Members Present: D Barton, J Smallman, K Bickley, D Fereday, S Marshall, P Jones, D Meredith, P Shone, B Patel, L Rouse, R Rickus, T Bowen, S Topper, C Walsh, A Sahota

Officers Present: R Kerr, C Ward, P Patel, D Carter

Apologies: G Linford, A Orgill, C Gallant, S Harvey

Observers: None

10/16 **Agenda Item 1 - Apologies**

As Above.

11/16 **Agenda Item 2 – Declaration of Interest**

None

12/16 **Agenda Item 3 – Minutes Of previous Meeting**

The minutes for the forum held on the 11th January 2016 were agreed.

13/16 **Agenda Item 4 – Schools Forum membership update**

C Ward outlined the report highlighting the approved School Forum structure by cabinet.

C Ward tabled a paper detailing the various groups / partnerships which would appoint the new members. The deadline for the

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representatives is 01/04/2016. The new structure will come into effect on the 01/04/2016

14/16 **Agenda Item 5 – Remit of Forum**

P Jones gave a verbal report on the Schools Forum constitution and requested that the EFA Schools Forum guidance notes be sent out to all new members. C Ward indicated that a report will be bought to the June 2016 School Forum on the remit of the forum.

15/16 **Agenda Item 6 – Schools Community Focused Activities**

R Kerr outlined the report and highlighted the following points: -

Clarified that schools delegated budgets can be used on community focused activities and that termly monitoring supplied by schools will need to be amended so that it specifically includes monitoring for community focussed activities and teaching schools.

P Shone asked when the focussed activity is running at a loss how would it be handled. R Kerr indicated that a school can use its DSG towards a focused community but that it should not impact on the schools results.

S Marshall asked if a school decides to offer a traded service and the service operates at a loss is it ok to run up a deficit? R Kerr mentioned that the first instance is for Schools governing body to decide on the service and that schools can operate with a trading service even if the income will not cover 100% of the costs.

P Jones requested that more clarity and guidance would be need to be included in the Fair Funding Scheme.

16/16 **Agenda Item 7- High Needs Block Financial Monitoring**

C Ward outlined the report and asked members for their comments and queries.

S Marshall asked for further details on how the budget is set and further details on how the budget is calculated for Special schools and PRU's.

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J Smallman asked for further information on how the £0.500m contribution to Childrens services was arrived at.

D Barton asked how many pupils do we have located out of borough.

C Walsh asked about out of borough charges and how it was calculated.

C Ward informed the forum that the local authority will be undertaking a review of special educational needs service which should be completed in the summer.

D Meredith asked that feedback from schools be sought as part of the review.

17/16 **Agenda Item 8 – Early Years Underspend Monitoring Update**

R Kerr outlined the report and stated that a further report setting out the proposals for the use of the underspends will be brought to the next meeting.

18/16 **Agenda Item 9 – National Fair Funding Consultation**

It was proposed that a working group be set up in readiness for the Government National Fair Funding 2017/18 consultation. No date for the consultation has yet been set by the DFE.

A working group consisting of members from Primary's, Secondary's and Special Schools should meet to discuss the impact of the Funding Consultation.

J Smallman, P Shone and P Jones agreed to be part of the working group.

19/16 **Agenda Item 10 – Change in Ratio – Support for Secondary Schools**

R Kerr outlined the report highlighting that an improvement fund be setup for secondary schools that are underperforming/coasting or experiencing financial constraints.

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A working group would be needed to come up with criteria as a basis of allocating this funding.

R Kerr asked for expression of interest who would like to be part of a working group and the following members agreed to participate.

D Meredith, P Shone, B Banks, C Walsh

12 in Favour. 0 Against. 3 Abstentions

The meeting was called to a close at 6.10pm

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