

Minutes of the Schools Forum

**17th December 2018 at 2.30pm
at Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

**Members Present: P Jones (Chair), P Shone (Vice Chair),
M Arnull, A Burns, L Gillam, L Howard,
G Linford, R Kentish, B Patel, A Sahota,
J Smallman, N Toplass, and C Walsh.**

**Officers Present: R Kerr, A Timmins, J Gill, C Ward and
M Tallents.**

Guests: B Bains, J Gray, K Featherstone.

Apologies: K Bickley, A Cysewski and D Irish.

19/18 **Agenda Item 1 – Apologies**

As above

20/18 **Agenda Item 2 – Declaration of Interest**

Neil Toplass – Agenda Item 5 – Focus Provision report.

21/18 **Agenda Item 3 – Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Resolved that the minutes for the forum held on the 12 November 2018 be confirmed as agreed subject to the following points.

A Burns, Head Teachers Advisory Forum – Secondary Schools asked that discussion be included in minutes, it was agreed that if a member wished for a specific comment to be included in the minutes they would indicate this in the meeting.

M Arnull, Head Teachers Advisory Forum – Secondary Schools remarked that he had been excluded from the invitation to the meeting in November but this had now been addressed.

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22/18 **Agenda Item 4 – The allocation of LAC Pupil Premium**

The Schools Forum received an update report regarding the allocation of the Virtual School Pupil Premium Plus.

The funding held back by the Virtual schools was used to support a wider educational and aspirational programme for all looked after children. Interventions such as our Aspire to University programme, tuition and enrichment both in and out of school, along with bespoke programmes for some pupils.

In order to implement the PEP additional staff had been employed to manage the process.

The Chair thanked the Head of the Virtual School for the report.

Resolved that the Schools Forum noted the report.

23/18 **Agenda Item 5 – Focus Provision report**

The Schools forum had requested at the last meeting that a report be circulated in relation to Special Educational Needs Focus Provision.

The report provided information relating to the Focus Provisions, Special Schools, Alternative Provisions and pupils placed in Independent Special Schools both in and out of the borough funded from the High Needs Block Grant.

The table at appendix 1 highlighted the average occupancy 2018/19.

Updated reports would be brought back on a regular basis to future meetings of the Schools Forum.

Resolved that the Schools Forum noted the report.

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Agenda Item 6 - The Schools national funding formula 2019/20

The Schools forum received a presentation in respect of the 2019/20 funding formula and basic methodology as requested by secondary heads.

The factors in the schools national funding formula were as follows:-

Basic per pupil funding;

- age weighted pupil unit;
- minimum per pupil level.

Additional needs funding;

- deprivation;
- low prior attainment;
- English as an additional language;
- Mobility.

School-led funding;

- lump sum;
- sparsity factor;
- premises;
 - rates;
 - PFI;
 - split sites;
 - exceptional premises;
- growth.

Geographic funding;

- area cost adjustment.

The Education Funding Agency had confirmed the 2018-19 allocations for each of the blocks for Sandwell MBC and this had been shared with the Schools Forum last year.

The Education and Skills Funding Agency had developed the Authority Proforma Tool to enable a local authority to detail their schools block funding formulae and a copy of the local authority funding reform proforma was circulated to members.

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Secondary school heads expressed concerns in respect of there being no differential between primary and secondary schools.

P Shone, Head Teacher Advisory Forum – secondary schools, stated that there was confusion amongst heads in respect to IDACI funding. It was confirmed that this funding was individual to schools.

An individualised pro-forma would be sent out in February 2019.

25/18

Agenda Item 6 – School Budget 2019/20 Consultation Responses

The Schools Forum received a report in respect of the Funding Formula Review 2019 – 20 – results of the consultation.

A total of 76 responses had been received compared to 60 last year.

Secondary schools had expressed concerns about the consultation process and the funding options that had been put forward for consultation. Mr Ward confirmed that the original options were a starting point for discussion at the last meeting and any options could have been added or removed for the consultation. Option 4 had been added to the options following the request by Secondary Headteachers at the last Schools Forum meeting.

One school had responded in favour of option four, prior to receiving the letter from Secondary Heads which they would have supported.

A Burns, Head Teachers Advisory Forum – Secondary Schools requested that the process be stopped for a more meaningful consultation.

M Arnull, Head Teachers Advisory Forum – Secondary Schools, asked what figures were multiplied by the 1.23 ratio. Rose Kerr advised that a response to this question would be sent to all School Forum members.

A vote was held on each of the proposals and the outcomes were as follows:

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1. DFE Growth fund – New formulaic method.

It was noted that the authority would not know the full financial implications of this change in funding until the DSG allocations were announced in December 2018.

11 in Favour, 0 Against, 0 Abstention.

2. De-delegation Proposals

Behaviour Support Team

Primary

7 in Favour, 0 Against, 0 Abstention.

Secondary

1 in Favour, 0 Against, 0 Abstention.

Preventing Primary Exclusions Team

7 in Favour, 0 Against, 0 Abstention.

Health and Safety Licences

Primary

7 in Favour, 0 Against, 0 Abstention.

Secondary

1 in Favour, 0 Against, 0 Abstention.

Evolve Annual Licence

Primary

7 in Favour, 0 Against, 0 Abstention.

Secondary

1 in Favour, 0 Against, 0 Abstention.

Union Facilities Time

Primary

7 in Favour, 0 Against, 0 Abstention.

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Secondary

0 in Favour, 1 Against, 0 Abstention.

School Improvement Service

Primary

7 in Favour, 0 Against, 0 Abstention.

Secondary

1 in Favour, 0 Against, 0 Abstention.

Schools in financial difficulty

Primary

6 in Favour, 1 Against, 0 Abstention.

Secondary

1 in Favour, 0 Against, 0 Abstention.

3. Education Functions Budget Proposals 2019/20.

Education Benefits Team

8 in Favour, 0 Against, 0 Abstention.

Children's Clothing Support Allowance

8 in Favour, 0 Against, 0 Abstention.

Safeguarding and Attendance

8 in Favour, 0 Against, 0 Abstention.

4. Central School Services Budget Proposals 2019/20

Statutory and Regulatory, Education Welfare and Asset Management

11 in Favour, 0 Against, 0 Abstention

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11 in Favour, 0 Against, 0 Abstention.

Admission Service

11 in Favour, 0 Against, 0 Abstention

Pension Administration

11 in Favour, 0 Against, 0 Abstention

5. Option preferred for calculation of school funding for 2019/20.

Members voted for Option 1 with the following result:-

Option 1

8 in Favour, 0 Against, 3 Abstentions.

Option 2

0 in Favour, 8 Against, 3 Abstentions.

Option 3

0 in Favour, 8 Against, 3 Abstentions

Option 4

0 in Favour, 8 Against, 3 Abstentions

6. MFG of =0.5% if modelling proves this achievable with the funding given.

8 in Favour, 0 Against, 3 Abstentions.

MFG of up to -1.5 (if necessary) then gains are capped in order for the MFG to be cost neutral.

8 in Favour, 0 Against, 3 Abstentions.

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(Meeting ended at 3.50pm)

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