

Schools Forum

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 8 December, 2015 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall

Present:- Dr. A. Bruton (Chairman)
Mrs. M. Sheehy
Ms. T. Coles
Dame M. Brennan
Mr. K. Whittlestone
Mrs. A. Patel
Mrs. G. Healy
Mr. J. Bonhomme
Mrs. M. Yates
Mr. F. Hodgkinson
Mr. S. Pritchard-Jones
Mr. A. Orlik
Mr. R. Bragger

In Attendance:- Mrs. L. Poole – Assistant Director, Access and Achievement
Mr. L. Haynes - Education Finance
Mr. L. Brazier – Children's Services
Mrs. I. Vanderheeran – Children's Services

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1. 8.12.15	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Mr. S. Davies, Mr. G. Crowther, Mrs. B. E. Westwood, Mrs. C. Draper, Mr. B. Powell, Mr. J. Dwyer, Mr. M. Vlahakis, Councillor C. Towe and Mr. D. Haley.</p> <p>Upon receiving apologies for Mr. Crowther, the Chairman passed on to the Forum Mr. Crowther's best wishes for the future. She also informed members that Mr. Crowther would be retiring at Christmas and asked that the best wishes of the Forum together with their appreciation of his advice, guidance and support be passed on to him.</p> <p>As requested by the Chairman, Mrs. Ensor gave a brief outline of the progress to date on the recruitment to vacancies on the Forum.</p>	.

<p>2. 8.12.15</p>	<p>Minutes - 13 October, 2015</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 13 October, 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.</p>	
<p>4. 8.12.15</p>	<p>Matters arising from the minutes</p> <p>(a) Ms. Coles referred to page 2, paragraph 6 of Item 6 and requested that the 'hidden costs' be investigated in relation to children from other local authority areas requiring the first 15 hours of education to be funded from schools and Walsall budgets. She questioned whether this was subsidising children from outside the borough.</p> <p>Mr. Brazier undertook to investigate this matter to establish whether costs are being reimbursed to the local authority and schools.</p> <p>(b) Ms. Coles referred to page 3, paragraph 3 of item 7 and requested a report to January, 2016 to enable a working group to be established earlier in the process to review the schools funding formula.</p>	<p>Len Brazier to investigate and report back to a future meeting.</p> <p>Lloyd Haynes to report to the next meeting.</p>
<p>5. 8.12.15</p>	<p>Late items to be introduced by the Chairman</p> <p>The Chairman agreed to take two questions which requested reports at the appropriate part of the meeting.</p>	
<p>6. 8.12.15</p>	<p>Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)</p> <p>There were no items for consideration in the private session.</p>	
<p>7. 8.12.15</p>	<p>SEN Update (Standing item)</p> <p>A report was circulated at the meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Brazier expanded on the contents of the report.</p> <p>With regard to out of area places, Shepwell Green</p>	

	<p>short stay was catering more for pupils on the autistic spectrum; this facility was working well with the families involved.</p> <p>Members questioned how the short fall of pupils had been assessed as the data collected was only as good as the questions put to schools. There were concerns that there were no MLD special school places for nursery or key stage 1 children although there was a need for such provision.</p> <p>Mr. Brazier confirmed that provision for early years and key stage 1 children would form part of the work stream.</p> <p>Mrs. Healy stated that a number of head teachers had been involved in the original review panel but had not been called upon in recent months which raised the question of whether head teachers were now involved.</p> <p>Members suggested that PNS and WASH could be asked whether they were working towards MLD and in a different authority were being assessed.</p> <p>Mr. Orlik suggested that head teachers be requested to supply the names of pupils at risk of exclusion and needed special education.</p> <p>Members requested that reports be circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the report be noted and a further report be submitted to the next meeting to be held on 12 January, 2016 to address the issues raised.</p>	<p>Members to refer this to PNS and WASH</p> <p>A report be submitted to the next meeting – Mr. L. Brazier</p>
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<p>8. 8.12.15</p>	<p>School ready and early help in Walsall – developing a more effective response</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Mrs. Vanderheeren drew the Forum’s attention to paragraphs 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 of the report. She confirmed that the Darlaston partnership was in place and the first Panel meeting had been successful; discussions were taking place with other partnerships.</p> <p>With regard to the CAHMS school link, there were only 10 school vacancies and it was expected that these would form clusters.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Schools Forum agree the revised outcomes framework for early help; 2. That Schools Forum notes the progress against the investment plan for early help. 	
<p>9. 8.12.15</p>	<p>Update on early years funding formula review</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Mr. Haynes confirmed that the working group had met on two occasions to review the current funding model and current funding rates were deemed adequate at that time. No information was available from the private providers.</p>	

	<p>Resolved</p> <p>1. That any further work on the EYSS be deferred until the anticipated information regarding the future funding of early years was made available to local authorities.</p> <p>2. That the current EYSFF model and funding rates for 2016-17 be retained for all schools and private and voluntary providers.</p>	L. Haynes
<p>10. 8.12.15</p>	<p>School Balances – 2014/15 outturn</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Schools Forum had to be consulted on the scheme for financing schools and the balance control mechanism which was 8%; the Local Authority was responsible for enforcing this.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>1. That the contents of the report be noted.</p> <p>2. That Schools Forum note that balances held by maintained schools would only be reported at sector level from 2015/16 onwards, rather than at an individual school basis.</p>	L. Haynes to provide future updates.
<p>11. 8.12.15</p>	<p>Approval of Central Expenditure Budgets for 2016/17</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That Schools Forum approve tables 1,2 and 3 as set out in the report to form the basis for central expenditure for the 2016/17 financial year.</p>	

<p>12. 8.12.15</p>	<p>School Improvement Update</p> <p>Mrs. Poole stated that a summary report was being produced for Challenge Board and Scrutiny Panel.</p> <p>Mrs. Sheehey referred to 'school to school support' and the possibility of some schools falling within a particular category being served an academy order. Support was therefore required very quickly to improve the school before an order was served.</p> <p>Mrs. Poole stated that school to school support would be sector lead; the clusters were working well.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the information be noted and a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Forum.</p>	<p>L. Poole to provide a report to the next meeting.</p>
<p>13. 8.12.15</p>	<p>Council's approach to using Section 106 money</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>It had been estimated that there would be an increase in pupil numbers in the future and migration and refugees had been factored in.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be referred to WASH and PNS for comments; 2. That a report be submitted to the January, 2016 meeting. 	<p>L. Poole to inform schools about anticipated migration in the area.</p>

<p>14. 8.12.15</p>	<p>Annual Report 2014/15</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Schools Forum was informed that the report had missed the summer term meeting and had been included on the Forward Plan to ensure that this did not reoccur.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Annual Report of Schools Forum for 2014/15 be noted.</p>	
<p>15. 8.12.15</p>	<p>Forward Plan</p> <p>The Forward Plan was submitted.</p> <p>Members asked that reports be circulated in advance of the meetings.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Forward Plan be approved subject to the inclusion of the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEN – out of borough/pupils from neighbouring Boroughs; • School Funding Formula Review • School Improvement • Section 106 money 	
<p>16. 8.12.15</p>	<p>Late items</p> <p>Mr. Bragger raised the question of funding in real terms for schools and the impact; and Behaviour Support Service (IBSS), schools Forum agree the funding but how is the impact measured, this needed to be monitored.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That reports be submitted to the February meeting of the Forum.</p>	<p>L. Poole/L. Haynes to provide a report to the February meeting.</p>

17. 8.12.15	Correspondence There was no correspondence submitted.	
	Date and time of next meeting It was NOTED that the next meeting of Schools Forum would be held on Tuesday, 12 January, 2016 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall.	

The meeting terminated at 5.55 p.m.