

## Schools Forum

**Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 22 September, 2015 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall**

**Present:-** Dr. A. Bruton (Chairman)  
Mrs. C. Draper  
Mr. M. Vlahakis  
Mrs. M. Sheehy  
Ms. T. Coles  
Mr. G. Crowther  
Mrs. B. Westwood  
Mrs. G. Healy  
Mr. J. Bonhomme  
Mrs. M. Yates  
Mr. F. Hodgkinson  
Mr. B. Powell (Vice-Chairman)  
Ms. R. Davies  
Mr. R. Bragger  
Mr. A. Orlik  
Ms. J. Humphries (substitute for Mr. S. Davies)

**In Attendance:-** Mrs. L. Poole – Assistant Director, Access and Achievement  
Mr. M. Parrott – Music Service  
Mr. L. Haynes - Education Finance  
Ms. D. Morris - Education Finance  
Mrs. A. Potts – Early Help, Children’s Commissioning and Action  
Workforce Development  
Mrs. I. Vanderheeren – Early Help  
Ms. S. Hart – Assistant Director – Integrated Facilities Management  
Mr. I. Lister – Integrated Facilities Management  
Mr. E. Kennedy - “ “ “  
Ms. D. Clacy – Head Teacher, Old Church C.E.(C) Primary School  
Ms. A. Spicer  
Ms. S A. Sinclair – Head Teacher, Pinfold Primary School

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1. 22.9.15</b>	<b>Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman</b>  That Dr. Bruton be elected as Chairman and Mr. B. Powell be elected as Vice-Chairman until the first meeting of the Autumn Term, 2016.	.

<p><b>2.</b> <b>22.9.15</b></p>	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Mrs. C. Fraser, Dame M. Brennan, Mrs. W. Smith, Mrs. M. Woodcock, Messrs. S. Davies, J. Dwyer and Councillor C. Towe.</p>	
<p><b>3.</b> <b>22.9.15</b></p>	<p><b>Minutes - 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2015</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.</p>	
<p><b>4.</b> <b>22.9.15</b></p>	<p><b>Matters arising from the minutes</b></p> <p>There were no matters arising from the Minutes.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b> <b>22.9.15</b></p>	<p><b>Late items to be introduced by the Chairman</b></p> <p>There were no late items to be introduced by the Chairman.</p>	
<p><b>6.</b> <b>22.9.15</b></p>	<p><b>Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)</b></p> <p>There were no items for consideration in the private session.</p>	.
<p><b>7.</b> <b>22.9.15</b></p>	<p><b>SEN Update</b> (Standing item)</p> <p>A report was circulated at the meeting.</p> <p>Mrs. Poole expanded on the contents of the report.</p> <p>A working group had been established to look at a Strategy for SEND and would be working with primary and secondary schools. It was important to provide both the skills and entitlement for young people that they deserved as well as value for money. It was intended to hold a Conference in February, 2016 on the Strategy for SEND and the Inclusion Strategy.</p>	

	<p>Previous work on SEND would not be disregarded; the need and fit for key stage 1 was included in the project.</p> <p>Members raised the problems they experienced in providing data for early years and key stage 1 as the need was not always known within the consultation process.</p> <p>Ms. Coles referred to the increase in the number of autistic children who entered nursery last year; reception had required specialist provision but it would take some time to put information before a panel for early help. Data was retrospective and not always relevant; she questioned how future proofing could be incorporated.</p> <p>Mrs. Poole highlighted the importance of cleansing existing data and obtaining current data, Finance might need to be devolved where appropriate.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That the update be noted.</p>	<p>A progress report be submitted to the next meeting – Mrs. L. Poole/Dr. K. Grandison</p>
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<p><b>8. 22.9.15</b></p>	<p><b>School ready and early help in Walsall – developing a collaborative and more effective response</b></p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Mrs. Vanderheeren outlined the contents of the report.</p> <p>Mrs. Clacy, Head teacher of Old Church C.E.(C) Primary School spoke in support of the project which was currently being rolled out in Darlaston and brought other agencies together. She also referred to the training programme included in section 4 of the report.</p> <p>Mrs. Vanderheeren reported that a locality profile would need to be developed to highlight any issues. The proposal would encourage investment from other partners as activities would be performed differently to support children and young people.</p> <p>In response to questions regarding localities and clusters, Mrs. Vanderheeren stated that the proposal related to bringing together partnerships to support pupils in their school community. Reports would be submitted to Schools Forum on a regular basis setting out the impact of the project. The effectiveness of training could be judged by mentors in schools and success measured against impact. It was hoped that all schools would be engaged.</p> <p>With regards to the overlap of some cluster members, possible double counting would be checked. Nursery inclusion would also be looked into.</p>	
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	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That Schools Forum:-</p> <p>(1) Agree to extend the scope of the £1m DSG School Ready investment to the wider Early Help Agenda;</p> <p>(2) Approve the proposed investment priorities and the implementation of the investment plan;</p> <p>(3) That the success measures set out in Appendix A of the report be the subject of a meeting with Mr. Vlahakis and officers with a view to refining the content and that it be submitted to the next meeting of Schools Forum.</p>	<p>Mrs. Vanderheeren/Mr. Vlahakis to meet to refine Appendix A.</p> <p>Mrs. Potts/Mrs. Vanderheeren to provide report.</p>
<p><b>9. 22.9.15</b></p>	<p><b>Application for continuation of music funding for 2016/17</b></p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Members spoke in support of the music service and the application for funding.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b> (unanimously)</p> <p>That approval be given to funding in the sum of £38,000 from Schools Forum to the Music Service, Forest Arts Centre in 2016/17.</p>	
<p><b>10. 22.9.15</b></p>	<p><b>Statutory Compliance and your responsibilities</b></p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Mrs. Hart introduced the report which was for information.</p> <p>Mr. Lister enlarged on the content of the report and outlined the responsibilities for all schools.</p> <p>Members stated that this should be referred to all</p>	

	<p>schools, it was not within the remit of Schools Forum.</p> <p>After discussion, it was</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That the report be noted.</p>	No action by Schools Forum
11. 22.9.15	<p><b>Scheme for Financing Schools – Confirmation of DfE directed revisions</b></p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That Schools Forum note that the directed revisions to the Scheme for Financing Schools had been agreed.</p>	Ms. D. Morris to publish to updated scheme on 'The Link'
12. 22.9.15	<p><b>Update on funding formula</b></p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Member's attention was drawn to paragraph 4.3 of the report; a meeting of the working group was scheduled to take place on 28 September, 2015.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That the contents of the report be noted.</p>	Ms. D. Morris to provide a report to the next meeting.
13. 22.9.15	<p><b>Late items</b></p> <p>There were no late items.</p>	
14. 22.9.15	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>There was no correspondence submitted.</p>	

<p><b>15.</b> <b>22.9.15</b></p>	<p><b>Forward Plan</b></p> <p>The Forward Plan was submitted.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That the Forward Plan be approved subject to the inclusion of:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kitchen funding</li> <li>• School ready and early help</li> </ul>	
<p><b>16.</b> <b>22.9.15</b></p>	<p><b>Date and time of next meeting</b></p> <p>It was <b>NOTED</b> that the next meeting of Schools Forum would be held on Tuesday, 13 October, 2015 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall.</p>	
	<p>The meeting terminated at 5.35 p.m.</p>	