

Schools Forum

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 20 September, 2016 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall

Present:- Mr M. Vlahakis (Chairman)
Dr. A. Bruton (Vice Chairman)
Mrs M. Sheehy
Ms T. Coles
Mr. S. Davies
Dame M. Brennan
Mrs B.E Westwood
Mrs M. Yates
Mr F. Hodgkinson
Mr I. Baker
Mr R. Bragger
Miss L. Emery

In Attendance:- Mrs. J. Bonner – Head of Educational Standards & Improvement
Mr. L. Haynes - Education Finance
Mr N. Picken – Legal and Democratic Services
Ms D. Morris - School & Early Years Finance Manager
Ms C. Goss – Head of SEND and Inclusion

		Action
1. 20.09.16	Election of Chair Resolved That Mr M. Vlahakis be appointed Chairman until the first meeting of the Autumn Term, 2017	
2. 20.09.16	Election of Vice Chair Resolved That Dr. A. Bruton be appointed Chairman until the first meeting of the Autumn Term, 2017	
3. 20.09.16	Apologies Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Mr K. Whittlestone, Mrs C. Fraser, Mrs G. Healey and Mr A. Orlik.	.

<p>4. 20.09.16</p>	<p>Minutes – 8 March, 2016</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 8 March, 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.</p>	
<p>5. 20.09.16</p>	<p>Matters arising from the minutes</p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>6. 20.09.16</p>	<p>Late items to be introduced by the Chairman</p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>7. 20.09.16</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>8. 20.09.16</p>	<p>School Ready Plan</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Debate ensued with members requesting further detail on the outcome of investment.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That Nicola Hart liaise with the Chair to agree a set of performance indicators.</p>	<p>Nicola Hart liaise with the Chair to agree a set of performance indicators.</p>
<p>9. 20.09.16</p>	<p>Creating Early Learning Places for two year olds</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>A discussion ensued focussing on the current consultation on Early Years Funding and potential impact.</p>	

	<p>Mr Haynes advised that a working group was being sought as part of the update on funding formula consultations and impact on Walsall 2017/18 local funding formulas and suggested that this matter could be included within that working groups remit.</p> <p>Forum Members were minded to confirms their support for utilising any remaining balance, once the required number of 2 year old places are secured, to invest in supporting the creation of sufficient places for the 30 hours/extended offer on the proviso that the criteria for allocation is considered at a future meeting.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the progress, and funding committed to date in creating 2 year old places, and the further work being undertaken to ensure sufficient places are available, be noted; 2. That Schools Forum confirms its support for utilising any remaining balance, once the required number of 2 year old places are secured, to invest in supporting the creation of sufficient places for the 30 hours/extended offer on the proviso that the criteria for allocation is considered at a future meeting. 3. That all members of the Forum circulate any information they receive which may be of interest. 	<p>That the working group consider the impact as part of its investigations.</p> <p>That a further report detailing the criteria for allocation but submitted to a future meeting.</p>
<p>10. 20.09.16</p>	<p>Early Help in Walsall – Strengthening Collaboration, Effectiveness and Impact</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>A Member of the Forum highlighted that the list of schools within the report was inaccurate. Officers agreed to ensure that this was rectified.</p> <p>Mrs Bonner agreed to undertake further work with Isobel Vandeerharan as many Heads reported that some schools were not engaging with the cluster. There was also confusion around arrangements in place.</p>	

	<p>Resolved</p> <p>That Officers provide clarity on arrangements in place to all schools.</p>	J. Bonner to liaise with Isobel Vanderheeran to provide clarity.
<p>11. 20.09.16</p>	<p>Review of Schools Forum Membership</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That it be noted that no change in schools membership is required and no change in non-schools membership; 2. That it be noted membership will next be reviewed in July, 2017. 	
<p>12. 20.09.16</p>	<p>Annual Report</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Annual Report be noted.</p>	
<p>13. 20.09.16</p>	<p>Universal Infant School Meals</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Debate centred on the remaining £33,234 and how this could be utilised to best effect. The Chair stated that criteria had been previously issued on the type of bids which would be acceptable.</p> <p>This was challenged by Ms Coles who suggested that the money could be used to assist schools to meet environmental health standards to ensure they are compliant.</p> <p>It was suggested that all schools, particularly, those known to be at risk of failing an environmental health inspection, be informed that the capital fund is available with a reminder on how to apply. These bids should then be considered at a meeting of Schools Forum. It was further suggested that all</p>	

	<p>schools be made aware that this would be the final time that the funds would be made available before being integrated within the emergency fund.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That all schools be advised that the capital fund is available and encouraged to apply; 2. That School's be notified that should funding remain after the bidding round, that it will be integrated into the emergency fund. 	<p>L. Poole to arrange for this information to be communicated to schools.</p>
<p>14. 20.09.16</p>	<p>SEN Update</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>The meeting were introduced to Claire Goss, Head of SEND and Inclusion who had recently been appointed.</p> <p>In terms of the review of commissioning of Special Educational Provision, the Forum requested that mainstream schools be involved in consultation at the beginning of the review. Assurance was provided that this would be the case.</p> <p>Concern was expressed that there was a short window for consultation. It was agreed that further detail was required and that Schools would need to be consulted prior to the matter being considered by Cabinet.</p> <p>Discussion took place on Educational Psychologist provision within Walsall. It was noted that a member of staff had been on long term sick leave and that provision was not as it should be. This impacted on Education Health and Care Plans resulting in some schools paying privately to get them completed.</p> <p>Officers advised that an advert had been placed for a Principal Education Psychologist and the closing date was Friday 23rd September, 2016. The model for service delivery was being considered.</p>	

	<p>Resolved</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That consultation takes place at the earliest opportunity with all schools, including mainstream. 2. That SEN updates be a standing item at each meeting. 	<p>Claire Goss to action.</p> <p>Neil Picken to include on future agenda.</p>
<p>15. 20.09.16</p>	<p>Apprenticeship Levy</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Schools were advised that whilst the details were currently unclear, they would need to make provision for the impact of the levy.</p> <p>In response to a question, Mr Haynes advised that the levy was based on 0.5% of the school pay bill. It was suggested that schools may wish to ensure that they have proportionate access to the levy funds.</p> <p>A Forum Member sought clarity on how schools and managers were providing an input to explain what the needs of the schools were. Mr Haynes acknowledged that this was a good point and agreed to report this back.</p> <p>It was stated that whilst many Heads were aware of the levy they were unclear as to what happens next. Clarity was sought as to whether schools could retain money in reserves in preparation for the levy. Mr Haynes advised that he would discuss this with Director of Children's Services and report back.</p> <p>Further debate ensued and it was suggested that a letter be sent to the Members of Parliament representing the three constituencies located within Walsall to establish clarity in relation to the implementation of the levy and noting the Forums concern about the potential impact the levy could have.</p>	<p>Primula Paul to raise the issue of engagement with schools to identify their needs.</p> <p>Mr Haynes to establish clarity on the use of reserves and report back.</p>

	<p>Resolved</p> <p>That a letter be sent to the Members of Parliament representing the three constituencies located within Walsall to establish clarity in relation to the implementation of the levy and noting the Forums concern about the potential impact the levy could have.</p> <p><i>*Dame Mo Brennan requested that her name be recorded as not supporting this recommendation.</i></p>	Chair of the Forum to write to local M.P's
16. 20.09.16	<p>Application For Continuation of Music Funding – Forest Arts Centre</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That £38,000 School Forum funding be granted to Forest Arts Centre in 2017/18.</p>	
17. 20.09.16	<p>Update on Funding Formula Consultations and Impact on Walsall 2017/18 Local Funding Formulas</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Schools Forum approve that, with regard to the Schools Funding Formula, pending the planned start of a move to a national funding formula in April 2018, a 2017/18 local Schools Funding Formula is prepared on the basis of no changes to the existing formula other than a review of the current approach to growth funding. 2 That Schools Forum note that a detailed report on the 2017/18 local Schools Funding Formula will be presented to Schools Forum for approval in October 2016, following which it will be reported on to Cabinet for agreement. 	

	<p>3. That Schools Forum note, with regard to the High Needs Funding Formula, the Council's recommendation that, pending the planned start of a move to a national funding formula in April 2018, the only changes to be made to the 2017/18 local High Needs Funding Formula would be to rebase and update the current banding values, and it is therefore seeking to establish a working group to support it in achieving this.</p> <p>4 That Schools Forum establishes a working group that will support the Council in reviewing, rebasing and updating the current High Needs banding values consisting of the following members:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Vlahakis • C. Fraser • F. Hodgkinson • T. Milosorov <p>5. That Schools Forum note that following this work it is planned that a report on the 2017/18 local High Needs Funding Formula would therefore be presented to Schools Forum for consultation by January 2017 at the latest, following which it will be reported on to Cabinet for approval.</p> <p>6. That Schools Forum note that, with regard to the Early Years Funding Formula, the Council will have to make amendments to the existing local formula to ensure that for 2017/18 it is in line with the required changes set out in the current consultation, and the Council is therefore seeking to establish a working group to support it in achieving this.</p> <p>7. That Schools Forum establishes a working group that will support the Council in reviewing and amending the current local Early Years Funding Formula to ensure that it is in line with the required changes set out in the current Early Years consultation consisting of the following members:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C. Draper • T. Coles 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L. Emery • D. Kelly • D. Clarke <p>8. That Schools Forum note that following this work it is planned that a report on the 2017/18 local Early Years Funding Formula would therefore be presented to Schools Forum for consultation by January 2017 at the latest, following which it will be reported on to Cabinet for approval.</p>	
<p>18. 20.09.16</p>	<p>Forward Plan</p> <p>The Forward Plan was submitted.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Forward Plan be noted; 2. That the extended Forward Plan be included within future Agenda. 	
<p>19. 20.09.16</p>	<p>Late Items</p> <p>ORACLE</p> <p>All business managers to be reminded of the need to set up new suppliers.</p>	
<p>20. 20.09.16</p>	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>None.</p>	
	<p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>It was NOTED that the next meeting of Schools Forum would be held on Tuesday, 11 October, 2016 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall.</p>	
	<p>The meeting terminated at 5.22 p.m.</p>	

	Signed:	Date: