

Schools Forum

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 8 March, 2016 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall

Present:- Dr. A. Bruton (Chairman)
Mr. S. Davies
Ms. A. Richards (substituting for Ms. T. Coles)
Mr. K. Whittlestone
Dame M. Brennan
Mrs. A. Patel
Mrs. G. Healy
Mrs. M. Yates
Mr. F. Hodgkinson
Mr. B. Powell
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
Ms. D. Morris – Education Finance
Mr. N. Perks – Children's Services
Mr. P Ward – Children's Services
Ms. C. Guest – Children's Services

		Action
1. 8.3.16	Apologies Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Ms. T. Coles, Mrs. C. Draper, Mr. M. Vlahakis, Mrs. M. Sheehy, Mrs. C. Fraser, Mrs. B. E. Westwood, Councillor Towe and Mr. J. Dwyer.	.
2. 8.3.16	Minutes – 12 January, 2016 The minutes of the meeting held on 12 January, 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.	
3. 8.3.16	Matters arising from the minutes Dame Brennan referred to page 6, paragraph 2 of Item 12 and asked if there had been any progress.	L. Poole to action

	<p>Mrs. Poole undertook to complete the action and follow this through.</p> <p>Mr. Bragger asked if there was any more information on primary schools network with regard to primary SEND.</p> <p>The Chairman stated that she had received no information from colleagues and was therefore unable to report back.</p>	<p>and inform PNS and WASH about anticipated migration into the area.</p> <p>Members to provide updated figures as soon as possible</p>
<p>4.</p> <p>8.3.16</p>	<p>Late items to be introduced by the Chairman</p> <p>The Chairman agreed to take a late item regarding the recent Ofsted inspection of the Local Authority.</p> <p>Ofsted Inspection of the Local Authority – Feedback</p> <p>The Director of Children’s Services gave a brief presentation on the recent inspection of the Local Authority by Ofsted. The Inspectors met with officers and members of Schools Forum. The Inspection took place over a two week period; during the first week 9 local authority maintained schools were inspected and 24 head teachers from local authority maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units undertook a telephone survey which included questions on the performance of the local authority. This gave Ofsted inspectors a strong evidence base which had been obtained from some 35 schools and was used to test against. The outcome for the local authority would be available in some 4/6 weeks time.</p> <p>The Director of Children’s Services thanked members who were involved in the inspection as well as those who were involved in Schools Forum on a regular basis.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the presentation by the Director of Children’s Services be noted.</p>	

5. 8.3.16	<p>Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)</p> <p>There were no items for consideration in the private session.</p>	.
6. 8.3.16	<p>SEN Update (Standing item)</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Mr. Ward, Interim Head of Service for SEND outlined the contents of the report.</p> <p>In response to questions Mr. Ward stated that the difficulties in meeting the time lines for completion of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) were understood nationally. There would be greater pressure on the more complex statements as well as on statements that had not undergone a review for at least six months. The Authority was working with the psychology service with a view to enhancing their opportunity to offer a broader service to schools and consideration was being given to introduce this as a traded service.</p> <p>Mrs. Poole undertook to ensure that evidence contained in the school's Education Plan would also be considered as part of the SEND evidence. With regard to paragraph 4.5, Mrs. Poole confirmed that data was required in order that provision could be assessed with a view to reducing the risk of exclusion of young people.</p> <p>Mr. Orlik expressed concern that progress in increasing provision for very vulnerable children was being hindered due to a lack of data.</p> <p>Mrs. Poole referred to various aspects of data that were required to enable an inclusion plan for the borough to be implemented.</p> <p>Mr. Bragger referred to staff at Castle and Jane Lane Schools who were underutilised as well as the need for expertise within main stream schools.</p>	<p>Keep on the agenda as a standing item.</p> <p>Chair to inform Mrs. Poole of the number of young people requiring SEND when known.</p>

	<p>Mr. Haley reported that approximately 20 additional places had been provided; the Shepwell Centre had developed its work with autistic children and provided 10 additional places. He was of the view that the Ofsted inspection would increase the focus on this issue. Provision within mainstream schools was also necessary.</p> <p>Mr. Orlik referred to the need for change and investment to enable appropriate specialist support to be provided.</p> <p>In response to questions, Mr. Haley confirmed that the Health Visitor/GP would provide the ECHP for nursery age children; unfortunately this did not always happen prior to the child entering an education setting; social care needed to be more involved.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the contents of the report be noted.</p>	
<p>7. 8.3.16</p>	<p>Living Wage – decision of Appointments Board 20 January, 2016:-</p> <p>“Resolved</p> <p>That it be agreed that the Council continues to pay a Living Wage supplement to existing roles (and casual roles) that are below the Living Wage, which will mean the minimum rate of pay will be £8.25 per hour with effect from 1st April 2016 for 12 months after which the situation will be reviewed again by Members. This includes all Walsall Council employees (excluding apprentices, including schools but excluding Voluntary Aided, Foundation and Academies).”</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Ms. Paul confirmed that a number of Voluntary Aided schools had adopted the National Living Wage. The new rate would be applied for a further twelve months and excluded schools could decide whether or not to continue to apply it.</p>	

	<p>Resolved</p> <p>That the contents of the report be noted.</p>	
<p>8. 8.3.16</p>	<p>High Needs top-up rates 2016-17 & revised permanent exclusion rates</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Ms. Morris outlined the contents of the report and drew attention to the information contained in the appendix to the report.</p> <p>In response to points raised, Mr. Haley confirmed that a review of New Leaf was being undertaken; the type of provision at the centre would be communicated to schools in the future.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the top-up funding rates for mainstream and special schools and academies be noted; 2. That the top-up funding rates for additionally resourced provision be noted; 3. That the expected top-up rates for New Leaf and Shepwell be noted following a change to funding arrangements; 4. That the revised permanent exclusion rate for 2016/17 be noted as follows:- <p>Primary School/Academies exclusion rate - £5,949 Secondary School/Academies exclusion rate - £7831</p> <p>and not as quoted in the appendix.</p>	<p>Ms. Morris to inform schools of the type of provision</p>

<p>9. 8.3.16</p>	<p>Update on Surplus</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the contents of the report be noted.</p>	
<p>10. 8.3.16</p>	<p>Traded Services</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Mr. Perks outlined the contents of the report and informed the Forum that the Council offered a wide port folio of traded services; the process would be unified and the service rebranded. Order forms were available from the website.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the contents of the report be noted.</p>	
<p>11. 8.3.16</p>	<p>Behaviour support service - monitoring</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Ms. Guest outlined the content of the report. She confirmed that additional capacity would be required if the service was to expand. An additional ten schools requesting support would be required to justify another team to be created at a cost of £8,000 per school. A marketing exercise targeting out of borough schools was proposed with a view to extending the service.</p>	<p>Ms. Guest to forward the information to A. Bruton for WASH and S. Davies for PNS.</p>

	<p>The number of primary fixed term exclusions had reduced compared to the previous year.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the contents of the report be noted.</p>	
<p>12. 8.3.16</p>	<p>Forward Plan</p> <p>The Forward Plan was submitted.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Forward Plan be noted.</p>	
<p>13. 8.3.16</p>	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Mr. Haynes referred to an email from Ms. T. Coles relating to a question from the Ofsted Inspectors regarding the fact that the national funding for education was increasing but funding per pupil in Walsall had reduced.</p> <p>Mr. Haynes confirmed that although the funding under DSG had increased, pupil numbers had increased at a higher level. This resulted in a reduction of funding per pupil.</p> <p>Mr. Haynes referred to the working group that had been set up to review the funding formula for 2016/17; consultation on schools funding formula was now being received and he undertook to circulate the information to the members of the</p>	<p>L. Haynes to circulate the email to all members of the Forum.</p> <p>L. Haynes to circulate consultation document to the working group</p>

	<p>working group in order that they could formulate a response on behalf of Schools Forum.</p> <p>Mr. Whittlestone asked about S.106 funding. Mrs. Poole stated that she would circulate information to members following a meeting on 9 March, 2016.</p>	<p>L. Poole to circulate outcome of meeting on S.106. and provide information on where the funds had been allocated.</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, 5 July, 2016 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall.</p>	
	<p>The meeting terminated at 5.45 p.m.</p>	
	<p>Signed:</p>	<p>Date:</p>