

Schools Forum

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 12 January, 2016 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
Mr. S. Davies
Mrs. C. Fraser
Mrs. A. Patel
Mrs. B. E. Westwood
Mr. J. Bonhomme
Mrs. M. Yates
Mr. F. Hodgkinson
Mr. B. Powell
Mr. S. Pritchard-Jones
Mr. R. Bragger

In Attendance:- Mrs. L. Poole – Assistant Director, Access and Achievement
Mr. L. Haynes - Education Finance
Ms. D. Morris – Education Finance
Mrs. J. Bonner – Children's Services
Mr. P Ward – Children's Services
Mrs. K. Mann – Children's Services

		Action
1. 12.1.16	Apologies Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Ms. T. Coles, Dame M. Brennan, Mrs. G. Healy, and Mr. A. Orlik.	.
2. 12.1.16	Minutes – 8 December, 2015 The minutes of the meeting held on 8 December, 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.	
3. 12.1.16	Matters arising from the minutes Mr. Davies referred to page 3, paragraph 1 of Item 7 and confirmed that, on the information received so far from PNS, there were 16 early years and 13 key	

	<p>stage 1 children identified from 6 schools who would require special educational needs places, these were children that were of real concern.</p> <p>Mrs. Patel confirmed that there were 8 nursery schools and 13 children had been identified with potential need of special school places.</p> <p>Mr. Vlahakis stated that KS2 children who were not in the system should also be included; members supported this view.</p>	<p>Members to provide updated figures as soon as possible</p> <p>To go to PNS 14.1.16 – Chair to take up with L. Poole and report back in February.</p>
<p>4. 12.1.16</p>	<p>Late items to be introduced by the Chairman</p> <p>The Chairman agreed to take two late items regarding Universal infant free school meals and the living wage at the appropriate part of the meeting.</p>	
<p>5. 12.1.16</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>6. 12.1.16</p>	<p>SEN Update (Standing item)</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Mrs. Poole introduced Mr. Ward, Interim Head of Service for SEND and outlined the structure of the team.</p> <p>With regard to out of borough placements, work was still ongoing and profiling taking place; the philosophy of the Council was to keep children in the Borough.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the report be noted and a more detailed report be submitted to the next meeting to be held on 9 February, 2016.</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.</p>

<p>7. 12.1.16</p>	<p>Admissions Service Update</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Mrs. Mann outlined the key functions of the team contained within the report. The additional funding agreed by Schools Forum had enabled the Admissions Team to fulfil the admissions role traditionally performed and work had commenced on producing documents to aid transparency for both colleagues and schools on the availability of places at schools.</p> <p>In response to questions, Mrs. Mann confirmed that Academies had a statutory duty to provide information on pupil numbers as well as the number of admission applications received; this information was requested on a weekly basis. Admission policies in respect of all schools were checked to ensure they complied with the law. Any policies found to be inappropriate would be referred to the Schools Adjudicator. Very few instances of non-compliance had been found this year. The Local Authority would challenge any issues notified to it.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the contents of the report be noted.</p>	
<p>8. 12.1.16</p>	<p>Final Schools funding formula for 2016-17</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Mr. Haynes outlined the contents of the report and drew attention to the options contained in paragraph 4.8 of the report.</p> <p>Resolved (1 abstention)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the overall level of DSG funding be noted; 2. That Option 2 be approved; this increased the AWPU funding factor values as much as possible to ensure that all Schools Block funding that was available was allocated to schools as soon as possible to help offset pressures that they were 	

	<p>currently seeing around increases in superannuation and national insurance rates, alongside the implementation of a national living wage from April 2016. The proposed change to the AWPU funding factor value would be maximised, and the impact of the increase was set out in Appendix C of the report; this would result in no surplus balance being available in the Schools Block to help smooth any future impact of the implementation of a national fair funding formula;</p> <p>3. That the formula be endorsed, including the preferred changes indicated above, and recommended to the Director of Children's Services, Cabinet and the EFA.</p>	L. Haynes
<p>9. 12.1.16</p>	<p>Review of Schools Funding Formula</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>1. That the contents of the report be noted and a review of the current main funding formula be agreed, incorporating consultation from the DfE regarding the move to a national fair funding formula; the membership of the working group be agreed as follows:-</p> <p>Mr. M. Vlahakis, Mr. S. Davies, Mrs. M. Sheehy, Ms. T. Coles, Dr. A. Bruton, Mr. K. Whittlestone (or Substitute), Mrs. C. Fraser.</p>	
<p>10. 12.1.16</p>	<p>High Needs Rates 2016-17</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Ms. Morris outlined the content of the report and informed the Forum that the high needs funding rates would be published on 'The Link' website later this term.</p> <p>In response to points raised, Mrs. Poole confirmed that in the event of a school refusing to pay the top up, the Local Authority would challenge this as it had a duty of care and that the money should move with</p>	<p>Mrs. Poole to devise a contract to be used between the school and PRU.</p>

	<p>the child.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the continued use of 'place plus' funding Model in high needs settings be noted; 2. That Schools Forum note that a revision of the cost model for high needs places in Additionally Resourced Provision had taken place; 3. That Schools Forum note the required change in top-up funding arrangements in regard to short term provision commissioned by schools and academies at the Shepwell Centre Medical PRU, with charges being met from delegated budget shares. 	
<p>11. 12.1.16</p>	<p>Dates of future meetings and extended forward plan</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Mr. Haynes drew Schools Forum attention to the extended forward plan which set the context around key business to be considered. With regard to the business to be considered at the 7 February 2017 meeting, Schools Forum was requested to note that the purpose of the meeting was to pick up any outstanding business from the December 2016 and January 2017 meetings.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>(a) That, subject to availability of the venue identified, the timetable for meetings of the Forum be agreed for the year as follows, the Meetings to be held at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Tuesday, 5 July, 2016 (Summer) Tuesday, 20 September, 2016 (Autumn) Tuesday, 11 October, 2016 (Autumn) Tuesday, 10 January, 2017 (Spring)</p>	<p>G. Ensor to book venue</p>

	<p>(b) That, in the event of additional meetings proving necessary, provisional dates be agreed as follows:-</p> <p>Tuesday, 7 June, 2016 (Summer) Tuesday, 6 December, 2016 (Autumn) Tuesday, 7 February, 2017 (Spring) Tuesday, 7 March, 2017 (Spring)</p>	
<p>12. 12.1.16</p>	<p>Council's approach to using Section 106 money</p> <p>Schools Forum was informed that none of the funding proposed under Section 106 was being referred back, some funding was required to be used by February, 2016. The use of the funding had been clear and it was anticipated that some funding in the future could be used for school extensions.</p> <p>With regard to migration into the area, Mrs. Poole indicated that the information would be available from admissions and confirmed that this would be investigated.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the information be noted.</p>	<p>L. Poole to inform PNS and WASH about anticipated migration into the area.</p>
<p>13, 14 & 17 12.1.16</p>	<p>Action Plan following Ofsted School improvement letter</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Schools Forum was informed that the report referred to the following items on the agenda:-</p> <p>School to school support; Leadership Development; Action Plan following Ofsted School improvement Letter.</p> <p>Mrs. Bonner expanded on the information contained within the document and informed Schools Forum that an 'Education Challenge Board' had been established to scrutinise and challenge the progress</p>	

	<p>on improvement following the Ofsted inspection in 2013. A number of stakeholders were members of the Board which was chaired by an independent chair.</p> <p>Work on leadership had resulted in a list of priorities, needs and areas of strength; training courses had been set up for middle leaders to assist with school to school support and a leadership conference would be held on 11 March, 2016.</p> <p>With regard to school improvement, work was ongoing on reshaping the service and the model adopted to achieve this would be fit for purpose. A pilot scheme involving some 15 schools had been set up.</p> <p>Members requested that benchmarking information be included in the future.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the document and information be noted.</p>	<p>Officers to provide benchmarking information in future update reports.</p>
<p>15. 12.1.16</p>	<p>Providing Information to Schools</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That this item be deferred.</p>	<p>L. Poole</p>
<p>16. 12.1.16</p>	<p>Traded Services</p> <p>Schools Forum was informed that a working group had been set up on this matter.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the information be noted.</p>	<p>L. Poole</p>

