

## Schools Forum

**Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 13 October, 2015 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall**

**Present:-**

- Mrs. C. Draper
- Mr. M. Vlahakis
- Mrs. M. Sheehy
- Ms. T. Coles
- Mr. S. Davies
- Mr. G. Crowther
- Dame M. Brennan
- Mrs. C. Fraser
- Mrs. W. Smith
- Mrs. B. Westwood
- Mr. J. Bonhomme
- Mrs. M. Yates
- Mr. F. Hodgkinson
- Mr. B. Powell (Vice-Chairman)
- Mr. R. Bragger

**In Attendance:-**

- Mrs. L. Poole – Assistant Director, Access and Achievement
- Mr. L. Haynes - Education Finance
- Ms. D. Morris - Education Finance

### **Vice-Chairman in the Chair**

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1. 13.10.15</b>	<b>Apologies</b>  Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Dr. A. Bruton, Mr. M. Allman, Ms. R. Davies, Mr. A. Orlik, Mr. J. Dwyer, Councillor C. Towe and Mr. D. Haley.	.
<b>2. 13.10.15</b>	<b>Minutes - 22 September, 2015</b>  The minutes of the meeting held on 22 September, 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.	
<b>3. 13.10.15</b>	<b>Matters arising from the minutes</b>  There were no matters arising from the Minutes.	

<p><b>4.</b> <b>13.10.15</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>5.</b> <b>13.10.15</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>6.</b> <b>13.10.15</b></p>	<p><b>SEN Update</b> (Standing item)</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Mrs. Poole expanded on the contents of the report.</p> <p>Work was ongoing to progress the SEN review and an update report would be submitted to the next meeting. An action plan was in the process of being compiled and key discussions were taking place with heads and chairs of governors of the special schools. It was anticipated that information would be supplied to stakeholders this term. A conference was planned for February 2016 which would clearly outline the policy for SEND which would go to mainstream school heads for consultation</p> <p>The cost of the service in Walsall was higher than those benchmarked locally, regionally and nationally; this was one of the issues to be addressed.</p> <p>The main aims were that the service had got to change, it had to deliver better outcomes across the board and the costs had to be lower. The 'Darlaston model' was bringing a different dimension to SEND and all vulnerable groups.</p> <p>Members raised the issue of out of borough children attending Walsall schools and were advised that this matter was being looked into as was Walsall children on out of borough placements.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That the report be noted.</p>	<p>An update report be submitted to the next meeting – Mrs. L. Poole</p>

<p><b>7. 13.10.15</b></p>	<p><b>Review of Schools Funding formula for mainstream schools and academies for 2016/17</b></p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Mr. Haynes outlined the report and confirmed that the review focused on deprivation aspects of the formula and increased funding in AWPU. Paragraph 3.7 of the report shows the models considered.</p> <p>Mr. Vlahakis referred to the difference between the size of the group which reviewed the funding formula in 2013 which met several times over several months and the group which had reviewed the formula this year, was much smaller and only met on two occasions. The scope of the review that this year's group focused on was also much smaller than that considered in 2013 which also looked at the effects of different factors that could be considered.</p> <p>Mrs. Sheehy stated that the financial effect on schools as well as the principles was discussed by the working group but no agreement could be reached on the principles. Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) was also included although the financial value of this protection would reduce going forward. Ms. Morris confirmed that MFG would still exist in 2016/17.</p> <p>With regard to school improvement, Ms. Morris confirmed that 19 out of the 24 schools that had been judged to be not good or had shown no improvement were in areas of quite high deprivation.</p> <p>Ms. Coles stated that deprivation factors were one of the principles that was quite high and was concerned that some pupils could fall within the formula deprivation funding (based on free school meals and IDACI) and also be eligible for Pupil Premium, and could therefore mean schools receive two lots of deprivation funding.</p> <p>Mr. Vlahakis confirmed that 16-19 education could not be included as it was not included in the general funding formula. He felt that all aspects of funding going into primary and secondary schools should be reviewed and it should be questioned whether there was a safeguard for schools where communities were at the centre.</p>	
-------------------------------	---	--

	<p>Mr. Crowther stated that year end balances should not be considered as surpluses were often planned for in advance and could already be committed as part of the school budget plan for the following year. With reference to the previous working group, Mr. Crowther stated that one of the considerations of that group was around ratios and information was obtained from statistical neighbours. At that time, Walsall sat well with its statistical neighbours and he questioned whether a similar exercise should be carried out with regard to AWPU.</p> <p>Ms. Morris confirmed that the DfE had again indicated that they would encourage local authorities to review their primary to secondary funding ratio where this remains below 1.1:27. The ratio in Walsall was currently 1.1:24.</p> <p>Mr. Haynes confirmed that there was an ability to review the formula every year and if it was considered that no change should be implemented a further working group could be established to look at the formula in more detail and consider additional options and totality of funding.</p> <p>Mr. Crowther referred to the two factors that were mentioned earlier, i.e. free school meals and IDACI; and highlighted the potential flaws in allocating funding using the data applied to these factors, and stated that increasing the distribution through AWPU would be more precise.</p> <p>Upon being put to the vote, 8 members voted in favour of Model 1 and 4 members voted in favour of Model 2, and it was:-</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That Schools Forum agree that the factors utilised within the local funding formula for mainstream schools and academies within Walsall for 2016/17 are not changed from those currently in place.</p>	
<p><b>8. 13.10.15</b></p>	<p><b>Maintained Schools De-delegation 2016/17</b></p> <p>A report was submitted.</p>	

	<p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(a) That maintained secondary school members of Schools Forum:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. approve de-delegation of the Free School Meal (FSM) Eligibility Service (estimated at £20.44 per FSM eligible pupil).</li> <li>2. approve de-delegation of Staff Costs – union and public duties (estimated at £5.60 per pupil).</li> <li>3. approve de-delegation of Insurance Services (estimated at £17.90 per pupil).</li> <li>4. do not approve de-delegation of a contingency (estimated at £2.67 per pupil).</li> <li>5. recognise that library services, maternity support and behaviour support are not de-delegated and they will have to purchase individually any service they require.</li> </ol> <p>(b) That maintained primary school members of Schools Forum:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. approve de-delegation of Free School Meal (FSM) Eligibility Service (estimated at £16.99 per FSM eligible pupil).</li> <li>2. approve de-delegation of Insurance Services (estimated at £17.95 per pupil).</li> <li>3. approve de-delegation of maternity supply cover (estimated at £6.61 per pupil).</li> <li>4. approve de-delegation of Staff Costs – union and public duties (estimated at £5.60 per pupil).</li> <li>5. approve de-delegation of Behaviour Support Services (estimated at £12.63 per pupil).</li> <li>6. approve de-delegation of Library Services (estimated at £14.51 per pupil).</li> <li>7. approve de-delegation of contingency (estimated at £2.67 per pupil).</li> </ol>	
--	---	--

<p><b>9.</b> <b>13.10.15</b></p>	<p><b>Update on Universal Infant Free School Meals Funding</b></p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>1. That Schools Forum note the current position regarding funding and endorses the requests for funding that have been approved by the working group.</p> <p>2. That approval of any further requests to utilise the remaining funding be delegated to the working group (with updates provided to Schools Forum).</p>	<p>L. Haynes to provide future updates.</p>
<p><b>10.</b> <b>13.10.15</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.</p>	
<p><b>11.</b> <b>13.10.15</b></p>	<p><b>Late items</b></p> <p>There were no late items.</p>	
<p><b>12.</b> <b>13.10.15</b></p>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>There was no correspondence submitted.</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, 8 December, 2015 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall.</p>	

The meeting terminated at 4.55 p.m.

