### **Schools Forum**

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2015 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall

Present:- Mr. M. Vlahakis (Chairman)

Dr. A. Bruton (Vice-Chairman)

Mrs. C. Draper Mrs. M. Sheehy Ms. T. Coles Mr. S. Davies Mr. K. Whittlestone Mr. G. Crowther Mrs. W. Smith

Mrs. B.E. Westwood

Mrs. G. Healy Mr. J. Bonhomme Ms. M. Yates Mr. F. Hodgkinson Mr. B. Powell

Mr. E. Loft (Substitute)

In Attendance: Mrs. K. Grandison - Children's Services, Walsall MBC

Mrs. D. Morris - Education Finance, Walsall MBC Mr. L. Haynes - Education Finance, Walsall MBC

		Action
1. 13.1.15	Apologies  Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Dame Brennan, Mr. Allman, Mrs. Fraser, Mr. Ison, Ms. Harnisch, Mr. Orlik, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Bragger - Mr. Loft substituted for Mr. Bragger.	
2. 13.1.15	Minutes - 9 <sup>th</sup> December, 2014	The minutes of the meeting held on 9 <sup>th</sup> December, 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
3. 13.1.15	Matters arising from the minutes  Item 9 - Paragraph (2) Mrs. Coles asked for information on the issues to be benchmarked and the method proposed.	

The Forum was advised that benchmarking would take the form of a series of reviews of elements of the Schools Funding Formula and other items within DSG. Analysis from the Department for Education took place on an annual basis.

Lloyd Haynes/Dawn Morris to action

The Chairman stated that the format of reports would need to be considered.

## Resolved

That benchmarking, as indicated above, take place on an annual basis.

Item 12 - Mrs. Coles stated that the information submitted did not provide the rationale behind the Funding Formula. It appeared that larger nurseries received lower levels of funding.

Mrs. Morris stated that the current Formula was established by a Working Group of Schools Forum in respect of Early Years and a cost model was based on 12.5 hours for nursery schools and classes and settings in the private, voluntary and independent sectors. However, the Early Years Single Funding Formula had not been reviewed for some years and it was recommended that a review take place during the next financial year.

## Resolved

That an item be included on the agenda for the next meeting of Schools Forum relating to the establishment of a Working Group to review the Early Years Single Funding Formula for implementation by December, 2015 and that an Early Years Head Teacher and independent sector representative be included on the Working Group.

Item 14 - (5) In response to a question by Mr. Loft, Schools Forum advised that the proposals for non-teaching Trade Unions in relation to de-delegation of the 2015/16 budget had not yet been considered by the Primary/Nursery/Special Schools Forum (PNS) and WASH.

Mr. Haynes stated that each school would decide on the level of funding for the support.

Dawn Morris to provide report

Lloyd Haynes to provide a costed proposal prior to submission to PNS and WASH

	The Chairman stated that a costed proposal would be required before its submission to PNS and WASH.	
	Item 15 - School Admissions Funding - (2). No response had been received to date from the Education Funding Agency on this matter.	
	Resolved	
	That additional information be submitted to the next meeting of Schools Forum setting out the full range of duties of the Schools Admissions Service.	Lynda Poole to action
	Item 17 - Local Government Pension Scheme - past service costs.	
	Mrs. Coles requested information on the cost to each school on the process for recovering past service costs.	Lloyd Haynes to action
4. 13.1.15	Late items to be introduced by the Chairman	
	There were no late items for introduction by the Chairman.	
5. 13.1.15	Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)	
	There were no items for consideration in the private session.	
6. 13.1.15	SEN update	
10.1.10	Mrs. Grandison informed Schools Forum that the first stage of consultation in respect of a review of special educational needs provision had been completed. A report would be submitted to Cabinet in February, 2015 seeking approval to the proposals to enable statutory consultation to begin and it was hoped that implementation on proposals could commence in September, 2015.  The Secretary of State would be requested to earmark some of the funding for capital works.	

Mrs. Morris informed Schools Forum that the Education Funding Agency had rejected the request to increase the number of high needs places. More detailed feedback from the EFA was expected late January.

The Chairman expressed concern that the primary sector had lost 40 places and should this trend continue as the older children carried on through the system, primary would continue to lose place allocations.

Mrs. Morris stated that the Local Authority could still agree to fund the places but this would need to be from the existing funding.

Karen Grandison to update March meeting

### Resolved

That the update be noted.

# 7. Final Schools Funding Formula for 2015/16 13.1.15

A report was submitted.

In response to points raised, Mr. Haynes stated that school improvement funding was allocated from the LA block and would be monitored by the Director of Children's Services.

After consideration it was,

#### Resolved

(1) That Schools Forum agree that their preferred option for the distribution of additional funding was the option based on AWPU; the level of allocation was endorsed and the relevant 2015/16 Schools Funding Formula Proforma be recommended to the Director of Children's Services, Cabinet and the Education Funding Agency;

Lloyd Haynes to ascertain whether DWP and Benefits Service could provide information on pupils eligible for free school meals

(2) That Schools Forum note and endorse that Walsall Council would continue to look for ways to ensure surpluses were prevented and that where surpluses arose, Walsall Council would look at ways within regulations to deploy surpluses as fast as possible.

Lloyd Haynes to action

8. 13.1.15	Approval of Early Years Central Expenditure  A report was submitted.  Resolved  That Schools Forum approve Table 1 of the report to form the basis for Early Years Central Expenditure for the 2015/16 financial year.	Dawn Morris
9. 13.1.15	Report on 2 year old capital expenditure  The Forum noted that this item had been withdrawn and would be submitted to the meeting on 10 <sup>th</sup> March, 2015.	Dawn Morris
10. 13.1.15	Dates for future meetings 2015/16  A report was submitted.  Resolved  (1) 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:-  Tuesday, 7 <sup>th</sup> July, 2015 (Summer) Tuesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> September, 2015 (Autumn) Tuesday, 13 <sup>th</sup> October, 2015 (Autumn) Tuesday, 12 <sup>th</sup> January, 2016 (Spring)  (2) That, in the event of additional meetings proving necessary, provisional dates be agreed as follows:-  Tuesday, 9 <sup>th</sup> June, 2015 (Summer) Tuesday, 8 <sup>th</sup> December, 2015	Noted by Members

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11. 13.1.15	Forward Plan The Forward Plan was submitted.	
	Resolved	
	That the forward plan of decisions be noted, subject to the inclusion of the following items:-	To be actioned by:-
	Early Years Funding Formula - Working Group - 10 <sup>th</sup> March, 2015	Lloyd Haynes
	Feedback on admissions service - 10 <sup>th</sup> March, 2015	Lynda Poole
	Dates for future meetings - 10 <sup>th</sup> March, 2015	Glenys Ensor
	2 year old capital expenditure - 10 <sup>th</sup> March, 2015	Dawn Morris
12. 13.1.15	Late items to be introduced by the Chair	
13.1.13	Schools Forum requested that a letter be forwarded to Mr. Mortiboys thanking him for his many years of service on Schools Forum.	Actioned by Glenys Ensor
13. 13.1.15	Correspondence	
	There was no correspondence submitted.	
14. 13.1.15	Date and time of next meeting  It was NOTED that the next meeting of Schools Forum would be held on Tuesday, 10 <sup>th</sup> March, 2015 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall.	

The meeting terminated at 4.55 p.m.