

Schools Forum

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 19th October, 2010 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall

Present:-

- Mr. J. Baker (Chairman)
- Mr. A.F. Cheminais
- Mr. D. Brownsword
- Mr. G. Crowther
- Dame M. Brennan
- Mr. J.P. Clarke
- Ms. M. Cryan
- Ms. A. Barker
- Mr. S. Onions
- Mr. F. Hodgkinson
- Mr. N. Stubbs
- Mr. D. Clough
- Ms. A. Lofthouse

In Attendance:-

- Ms. A. Walton (Walsall Children's Services - Serco)
- Mrs. J. Taylor (Walsall Children's Services - Serco)
- Ms. D. Morris (Walsall Children's Services - Serco)
- Mr. D. Mortiboys (Walsall MBC)

		Action
1. 19.10.10	Apologies Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Mr. S. Flynn, Mrs. V. Birch, Ms. J. Morgan, Mr. A. Basi and Mr. A. Bowater. The Chairman welcomed new Members and all those present introduced themselves.	
2. 19.10.10	Minutes - 28th September, 2010	The minutes of the meeting held on 28 th September, 2010 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

<p>3. 19.10.10</p>	<p>Matters arising from the minutes</p> <p>(a) Impact of the 2010/11 emergency budget on the music service - Dame Brennan reported that Sneyd School had no record of anyone accessing the service and this would be taken up with Mr. Parrott;</p> <p>(b) Pensions Policies - Local Government and Teachers - Mr. Clough referred to the first paragraph on page 5 and stated that consultation should take place with the unions on who would provide the funding for redundancies;</p> <p>(c) Consultation on school funding 2011/12 and introducing a pupil premium - Julie Taylor reported back on information obtained at a recent conference when an indication had been given that consultation on pupil premium would be open and on that basis, the response to consultation on pupil premium had been strengthened in favour of the IDACI methodology.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the information contained in the matters arising from the minutes be noted.</p>	
<p>4. 19.10.10</p>	<p>Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)</p> <p>The Forum was advised that there were no items for consideration in the private session.</p>	
<p>5. 19.10.10</p>	<p>14-19 Funding Update</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Julie Taylor highlighted the contents of the report and drew attention to the main features of the proposed funding system. The lagged learner numbers in the October census data would be used to provide the budget for the following year and would, therefore, need to be as accurate and up to</p>	

	<p>date as possible. Schools should check their data and although information cannot be changed, there will be an opportunity to put any missing information forward, e.g. uncashed AS passes; a data cleaning process should be rolled out in the next few weeks. Existing academies will be brought into the lagged funding system and there would be no in-year adjustments. The October census would be key to drawing down post 16 funding in the future. Members expressed concern at the proposals.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the proposed changes to the post 16 funding system be noted;</p> <p>(2) That further information be shared with Schools Forum as the YPLA policy and process are firmed up over the coming months.</p>	
<p>6. 19.10.10</p>	<p>Transforming Learning in Walsall - Financial Close report</p> <p>A report was submitted and Mr. Mortiboys outlined the information contained therein and confirmed that funding had been returned to schools with the exception of interest payments which equated to approximately £10,000, this would be distributed in the near future. In response to points raised, Mr. Mortiboys confirmed that accounts would be checked to ensure that no duplications in payments for services had occurred. The capital contributed by the six schools involved in BSF should be realised. Mr. Crowther confirmed that Shire Oak had already received last year's formula capital which was paid out on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the contents of the report be noted.</p>	
<p>7. 19.10.10</p>	<p>Single status and equal pay - update</p> <p>Ms. Walton informed the Forum that, prior to the single status agreement in July, 2011, the Local Authority had to deal with equal pay claims relating to support staff in schools who could claim</p>	

	<p>comparators throughout the Council for Voluntary Aided and County Controlled Schools. Foundation Schools and Academies could only use comparators from the same employer. The stage had been reached whereby the Council could make an offer to those who had made claims as well as any potential claims. Meetings would be taking place to go through single status and the financial consequences. Schools would not be expected to meet the full costs of equal pay from their revenue budgets this year or next year and in some cases schools could take out a licensed deficit. Some Community and Voluntary Controlled schools could capitalise their debt but individual circumstances would need to be considered. With regard to carrying sums forward, this would not be an issue, there were no plans to take money out of school budgets this financial year.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the report be noted.</p>	
<p>8. 19.10.10</p>	<p>Consultation on the School Finance (England) Regulation 2011</p> <p>A report was submitted summarising some of the draft regulations for the 2011/12 financial year. It was proposed that a number of grants would be main streamed and new or existing formula could be used to include the sums in the DSG, as an alternative, a grant factor could be used to ensure that every school received the same cash value as last year, together with any adjustments.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the contents of the report be noted.</p>	
<p>9. 19.10.10</p>	<p>Formula Review 2011-12</p> <p>A report was submitted and Julie Taylor highlighted the contents, indicating that some issues should be held in abeyance pending the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review. Members expressed concern at the federation proposals and felt that the majority of funding should follow the pupils; schools that were part of a federation should</p>	

	<p>not be penalised.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the report be noted;</p> <p>(2) That all in year NNDR changes are matched by corresponding budget adjustments;</p> <p>(3) That approval be given to move the practical learning fund into the individual schools budgets and delegated to secondary schools via a separate formula factor for the 2011/12 financial year; with the existing formula being used to devolve the funding in the new formula factor that is a fixed sum per KS4 pupil;</p> <p>(4) That in the event of the Local Authority incurring a penalty in year one of the carbon reduction commitment, this be met by top slicing the individual schools budget or through the central expenditure element of the schools budget;</p> <p>(5) That the principle of introducing a factor to ensure that the maximum benefits are achieved from the resources available for the funding of schools be approved and that a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the Forum.</p>	
<p>10. 19.10.10</p>	<p>Forward Plan</p> <p>The Forward Plan was submitted.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the meeting provisionally arranged for 9th November be cancelled;</p> <p>(2) That the following items be added to the Forward Plan:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Budget for Federations</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Additional budget items</p>	

11. 19.10.10	Correspondence There was no correspondence received.	
12. 19.10.10	Date and time of next meeting It was NOTED that the next meeting of Schools Forum would be held on Tuesday, 7 th December, 2010 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall.	

The meeting terminated at 5.10 p.m.