

Schools Forum**Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 5 December, 2017 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall**

Present:- Dr. A. Bruton (Vice Chair)
 Mrs M. Sheehy
 Ms T. Coles
 Mrs C. Draper
 Mrs C. Fraser
 Mrs D. Kelly
 Mrs B. E. Westwood
 Mrs G. Healey
 Mr. A. Beason
 Ms L. Foster
 Mr. M. Fox
 Mr. I. Baker
 Mr. F. Hodgkinson

In Attendance:- Mrs L. Poole – Assistant Director – Access and Achievement
 Mrs C. Beirne – Head of Educational Standards and Improvement
 Mr. L. Haynes - Education Finance
 Mrs Dawn Morris – Education Finance
 Ms C. Goss – Head of Service, SENDI
 Mrs B. Mycock – Clerk to Schools Forum

		Action
1. 05.12.17	Apologies Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Mr. Vlahakis (Chair), Mr. A. Seager, Mr. I. Baker, Mr, R. Beech, Mrs H. Keenan, Mr. A. Orlik, Mr. R. Bragger, Mr. K. Whittlestone and Mr. B. Powell	
2. 05.12.17	Minutes – 17 October, 2017 The minutes of the meeting held on 17 October, 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record	
3. 05.12.17	Matters Arising from the Minutes <u>Item 2 – page 1</u> Schools Forum Membership – a report pertaining to the Constitution will be included on the next agenda <u>Item 2 – page 2</u> The Clerk confirmed a copy of the letter of the Schools Adjudicator had been forwarded to all Members.	Clerk to forward copy to Mr. Hodgkinson

	<p><u>Item 8 – page 4</u></p> <p>Maintained Schools De-delegations 2018/19 – Lloyd Haynes had attended Primary Forums to discuss the pension scheme at both the beginning and end of November. The Clerk confirmed a copy of the report had been forwarded to all primary governor representatives prior to the subsequent Primary Forum meeting.</p>	To note
<p>4. 05.12.17</p>	<p>Late Items (urgent) to be introduced by the Chairman</p> <p>There were no late items.</p>	To note
<p>5. 05.12..17</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>	To note
<p>6. 05.12.17</p>	<p>SENDI Update</p> <p>The Chair advised Members this item would be deferred until later in the meeting.</p>	
<p>7. 05.12.17</p>	<p>Local Government Pension Scheme Past Service Pension Costs – Allocation Method for 2018/19</p> <p>A report had been submitted to provide a number of alternative options for consideration of the allocation of past service pension costs relating to the local government pension scheme (LGPS).</p> <p>(see annexed)</p> <p>Mr Haynes advised members that the report had originally been presented to Schools Forum on 17 October, where members had requested additional time to enable consultation and/or meetings to take place with schools over a 3 week period and that all maintained schools had been invited to vote on their preferred option.</p> <p>Members considered the report further and a number of comments were raised which included how some schools were finding the costs difficult to absorb; concerns that should any school be forced into a deficit situation this may cause redundancies; any decision made would affect all children and therefore there was a need to even out the consequences for all maintained schools.</p> <p>Mr. Haynes advised that only maintained school members were eligible to vote on the matter and that should they be minded not to vote on any of the three options, then the position would remain the same.</p>	

	<p>The Chair put the three alternative options to the vote and maintained school members voted as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1 - 1 vote • Option 2 - 5 votes • Option 3 - 3 votes • Current - 0 votes • Abstain - 0 votes <p>Mrs Draper asked it to be recorded that Schools Forum members had represented the majority of people's views within their voting.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That Option 2 had been identified as the preferred methodology for allocating the past service pension costs to individual maintained schools for 2018/19, as contained within the report.</p>	To note the preferred option.
<p>6. 05.12.17</p>	<p>SENDI Update</p> <p>A report had been submitted to update members of the Walsall LA and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) SENDI joint priorities action plan up to June 2018.</p> <p>(see annexed)</p> <p>Claire Goss highlighted the salient points within each of the seven main objectives within the report and she then introduced Emma Thornbery who had commenced with Walsall in September as a Lead Educational Psychologist.</p> <p>The Chair enquired of the recruitment drive and current number of Educational Psychologists within Walsall. In response, Emma reported there were 8 x Education Psychologists of which 3 were full times posts and 2 were trainees and that Walsall was still drawing on the services of 7 x locums for statutory work. In response to a query, Emma responded that Locums had to be utilised for Objective 5.8 of the report. Claire further added that from 2015 to 2017, Walsall has seen a 50% increase in assessments and 153 additional requests for EHCPs.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>To note the report</p>	To note

<p>8. 05.12.17</p>	<p>Dedicated Schools Grant Update on 2016/17 Surplus and 2017/18 Position</p> <p>A report had been submitted to inform Schools Forum of the forecast year end surplus position for DSG as at the end of 2017/18.</p> <p>(see annexed)</p> <p>Lloyd Haynes highlighted the salient points therein and advised Schools Forum that should the surplus not be utilised this year, it would be carried forward for specific projects next year.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Schools Forum noted the updated position as set out in the report ii. Schools Forum noted that the position will continue to be reported regularly going forward 	<p>To note</p> <p>Lloyd Haynes to provide regular updates</p>
<p>9. 05.12.17</p>	<p>Proposed Schools Funding Formula 2018/19</p> <p>A detailed report had been submitted to inform members of the schools funding formula, which is the local process that is utilised to allocate the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding that the Council receives to the mainstream schools in the Borough of Walsall.</p> <p>(see annexed)</p> <p>Lloyd Haynes advised Members of the considerable amount of work that had been carried out by the working group in reviewing the options available for the revising and setting of the local funding formula for 2018/19, with the aim of identifying the most appropriate option for distributing the total funds available to the authority to fund mainstream education, and he advised of the outcomes of the working group as set out in the report, further adding that the recommendation of Schools Forum would be reported to Cabinet at their meeting on 13 December, 2017 to seek approval.</p> <p>Lloyd provided a brief summary of the four options the working group had reviewed with regards to best implementing the changes to the local funding formula for 2018/19 and he stated that he felt the preferred option met all the relevant principals.</p>	

	<p>Schools Forum considered the working party's preferred option of Model 4A – 'utilising the Local Funding Formula factor values used for 2017/18 but amending the factor values applicable to Looked After Children, harmonising local deprivation rates to the NFF rates, and increasing Low Attainment and English as an Additional Language rates toward those included within the NFF. The Model also retained a Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) of -1.5%, with pupil numbers adjusted for projected September 2018 growth in schools which have or will be expanded.</p> <p>Members voted upon the preferred option of the working group – Model 4a as follows:-</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">FOR = 13 AGAINST = 0 ABSTAIN = 0</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>i. Schools Forum noted the work undertaken by officers and the working group consisting of members of Schools Forum, and agreed the recommended Model 4A, that will be utilised to distribute funding to mainstream schools and academies within Walsall for 2018/19</p> <p>ii. Schools Forum noted that the recommendation would be reported to Cabinet on 13 December to seek their approval</p> <p>iii. Schools Forum approved the continuation of the working group to identify a local funding formula to be operated for 2019/20, to begin from May 2018 to include Max Vlahakis, Alison Bruton, Michelle Sheehy, Tracy Coles, Keith Whittlestone, Cathy Draper, Ian Baker, Tony Beason, Michael Fox and Chris Fraser.</p>	<p>To note</p> <p>To Cabinet on 13 December</p> <p>To note Membership. Date of initial meeting to be advised in due course.</p>
<p>10. 05.12.17</p>	<p>Update on Early Years Funding Rates for 2018/19 and Progress of Special Schools Working Group</p> <p>A report had been submitted to provide an update to members regarding the impact on hourly rates payable for 2018/19 and of the working group's review of the Special Schools funding formula and an outline timetable for the move towards a revised formula.</p> <p>(see annexed)</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>i. Schools Forum noted the rates that will be payable to the local authority for provision of 3-4 year old support for 2018/19 and impact on hourly rates payable</p>	<p>To note</p>

	<p>ii. Schools Forum noted the work of the special schools group and the outline timetable for the move toward a revised formula.</p>	To note
<p>11 and 12 05.12.17</p>	<p>Update on Education Challenge Board and School Improvement Model and Unvalidated Results</p> <p>Lynda Poole reported on the last meeting of the Challenge Board and she highlighted there were currently a number of bids out and they were in a position to look at a sector level improvement model. She further suggested a working group be arranged to meet on a monthly basis up to September 2018, to flesh out and morph the education challenge bid into a model to include SEN, and return to Schools Forum in the new year, with the anticipation of launching a sector lead improvement model.</p> <p>Lynda advised Schools Forum that as soon as both reports had been taken to the Challenge and the SENDI Boards, Schools Forum would then discuss them in conjunction with each.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Schools Forum noted the comments made and that the working group identified to begin from January 2018 to include Max Vlahakis, Alison Bruton, Michelle Sheehy, Tracy Coles, Cathy Draper, Tony Beason, Chris Fraser, Lesley Foster and Gerry Healey.</p>	<p>To note</p> <p>Lynda Poole to advise in due course</p> <p>To await further dates for working group</p>
<p>12. 05.12.17</p>	<p>Unvalidated Results</p> <p>Connie Beirne gave a verbal update of a number of unvalidated results and Lynda Poole advised members that the validated results would be published via The Link as soon as they were available.</p>	Validated results to be published on The Link
<p>13. 05.12.17</p>	<p>Forward Plan</p> <p>The Forward Plan was submitted.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Forward Plan and subsequent amendments be noted.</p>	All
<p>14. 05.12.17</p>	<p>Late Items (if any)</p> <p>There were no late items.</p>	
<p>15. 05.12.17</p>	<p>Correspondence (if any)</p> <p>There was no correspondence.</p>	

	Date and time of next meeting It was NOTED that the next meeting of Schools Forum would be held on Tuesday, 16 January, 2018 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall.	To note
	The meeting terminated at 5.35 p.m.	
	Signed:	Date: