

## Schools Forum

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall

**Present:-** Mr M. Vlahakis (Chairman)  
Dr. A. Bruton (Vice Chairman)  
Mrs M. Sheehy  
Ms T. Coles  
Dame M. Brennan  
Mrs B.E Westwood  
Mrs M. Yates  
Mr F. Hodgkinson  
Mr R. Bragger  
Mr. B. Powell  
Miss L. Emery  
Mrs G. Healy

**In Attendance:-** Mrs. L. Poole – Assistant Director - Access & Achievement  
Mr. L. Haynes - Education Finance  
Mrs N Gough – Legal and Democratic Services  
Ms C. Goss – Head of SEND and Inclusion

		<b>Action</b>
<b>21.</b> <b>11.10.16</b>	<b>Minutes – 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016</b>  The minutes of the meeting held on 20 <sup>th</sup> September, 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the following amendments;  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reference 2. Dr A. Bruton was appointed as the Vice-Chair until the first meeting of the Autumn Term, 2017.</li></ul>	
<b>22.</b> <b>11.10.16</b>	<b>Matters arising from the minutes</b>  Nicola Hart was aware of the action 'to agree a set of performance indicators' from the meeting held on 20 <sup>th</sup> September 2016 and would be progress this action.  Lynda Poole would be circulating information, to all schools, on Universal Infant School Meals and the process for bidding for remaining capital funds.	Lynda Poole to circulate information on Universal School Meals to all schools and the process for bidding for remaining capital funds.

	<p>A letter of appreciation should be forwarded to, the previous Clerk, Glenys Ensor. It was noted that there would be a change in Clerks and the permanent Clerk would be taking over at the next meeting.</p>	<p>The Clerk to draft a letter for the Chair to sign at the next meeting.</p>
<p><b>23.</b> <b>11.10.16</b></p>	<p><b>Apologies</b> Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Ms. R. Davies, Mr. K. Whittlestone, Mr. I. Baker, and Councillor Burley.</p>	
<p><b>24.</b> <b>11.10.16</b></p>	<p><b>Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)</b>  There were no items for consideration in private session</p>	
<p><b>25.</b> <b>11.10.16</b></p>	<p><b>De-Delegation 2017/18 Report</b>  A report was submitted. Forum Members asked representatives for maintained Secondary Schools and maintained Primary Schools to consider and vote on the recommendations.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b> <b>That in reference to the report submitted (annexed) the following decisions relating to delegation of funding for services were made;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.1 – Do not approve</li> <li>• 2.2 – Do not approve</li> <li>• 2.3 – Do not approve</li> <li>• 2.4 – Approve</li> <li>• 2.5 – Approve</li> <li>• 2.6 – note</li> <li>• 2.7 – Approve</li> <li>• 2.8 – Approve</li> <li>• 2.9 – Approve</li> <li>• 2.10 – Approve</li> <li>• 2.11 – Approve</li> <li>• 2.12 – Approve</li> <li>• 2.13 – Approve</li> </ul>	
<p><b>26.</b> <b>11.10.16</b></p>	<p><b>SEN Update</b> Forum Members were advised that the ‘Home to School Transport Review’ was out for consultation. This included an area of focus on transport for children with special needs. Every effort had been</p>	

	<p>made to make the plan more user friendly.</p> <p>Forum Members were advised that over 1,000 statements of special educational needs needed to be replaced with Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. Capacity within the team had been increased to support this process. Walsall Council was in a similar position to other Local Authorities that were also facing difficulties with the transfer. Forum Members stressed the importance of the EHC being carried out properly to avoid difficulties as children progressed through school. Forum Members requested that the Primary Forum and WASH to be consulted..</p> <p>A discussion ensued about the provision of Educational Psychologists. Officers stated that the Local Authority was currently recruiting to two posts. The forum was assured that there would be a managed transition between existing and new arrangements. Officers stated that the Local Authority was committed to developing a SEND that was fit for purpose.</p>	<p>To be reconsidered at the next meeting.</p>
<p><b>27.</b> <b>11.10.16</b></p>	<p><b>Review of Dedicated Schools Grant Surplus/Deficit</b></p> <p>Forum Members were advised that Mr M. Vlahakis and Dr. A. Bruton would be joining the SEN review working group to consider the potential use of the DSG surplus relating to high needs funding.</p>	
<p><b>28.</b> <b>11.10.16</b></p>	<p><b>Apprenticeship Levy</b></p> <p>The Finance Office advised that a corporate piece of work was underway to consider how the apprenticeship levy affected the Local Authority. Concern was expressed by Forum Members that the levy affected school staffing budgets. A report was requested from HR for the next meeting to provide further clarity relating to how the process will be administered locally.</p> <p>A conversation regarding the ability to request a Properly Assigned Sum (PAS) relating to these costs took place with the Finance Officer setting out that the Director for Children's Services was not supportive of this option as PAS requests should be in relation to one off projects and not ongoing day to day expenditure. As such Forum members requested that a review of the current Balance Control Mechanism process is considered at the</p>	<p>Primula Paul / HR - To be reconsidered and reported at the next meeting.</p> <p>Lloyd Haynes – to be reported to the next meeting</p>

	<p>next meeting.</p> <p>It was requested that an action sheet is placed on the agenda as a standard item.</p>	<p>The Clerk to produce an action sheet for inclusion with the agenda.</p>
<p><b>29.</b> <b>11.10.16</b></p>	<p><b>Early Help in Walsall – Strengthening Collaboration, Effectiveness and Impact</b></p> <p>Forum Members were advised that a steering group had been established to focus on Early Help in Walsall. This would include a number of agencies. The Finance Officer stated that a report would be taken to the next meeting. The Chair stressed the importance of clarity in this area due to the emphasis placed by Ofsted on safeguarding. Officers acknowledged that capacity to deal with this within schools was an issue and that a strategy to assist would be put in place.</p>	<p>Jane Bonner / Isabel Vanderheeren – Report to be reconsidered at the next meeting.</p> <p>Debbie Carter to do a report on SEND to Primary Forum and WASH.</p>
<p><b>30.</b> <b>11.10.16</b></p>	<p><b>Schools Funding Formula</b></p> <p>A report was submitted. Forum Members were asked to agree that the factors utilised within local funding formula for mainstream schools and academies within Walsall for 2017/18 are not changed from those currently in place. This was approved.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p><b>The funding factors to be used in the Walsall Schools Funding Formula 2017/18 are not changed from those currently in place.</b></p>	
<p><b>31.</b> <b>11.10.16</b></p>	<p><b>Forward Plan</b></p> <p>The following items should be added to the forward plan for the next meeting;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apprentice Levy (Primula Paul / HR)</li> <li>• SEN update (Claire Goss)</li> <li>• Early Help in Walsall (Jane Bonner / Isabel Vanderheeren)</li> <li>• CLEAPSS (Lynda Poole / Chris Close)</li> <li>• Balance Control Mechanism review (Lloyd Haynes)</li> </ul>	

<p><b>32.</b> <b>11.10.16</b></p>	<p><b>Late Items</b> CLEAPSS is an advisory service providing support in science and technology for local authorities and their schools. Forum members discussed membership options and associated costs.</p> <p>The Assistant Director agreed to investigate this further and report back at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Lynda Poole and Chris Close to report back at the next meeting.</p>
<p><b>33.</b> <b>11.10.16</b></p>	<p><b>Correspondence</b> Forum Members were advised that Maureen Woodcock had resigned from the membership of the group.</p>	
<p><b>34.</b> <b>11.10.16</b></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, 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall.</p>	
	<p>The meeting terminated at 5.00 p.m.</p>	
	<p>Signed: .....</p>	<p>Date: .....</p>