

**Schools Forum****Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 6 March, 2018 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall**

**Present:-** Ms T. Coles (Chair)  
 Mrs M. Sheehy  
 Mr. S. Davies  
 Mr. R. Beech  
 Mrs C. Fraser  
 Mrs D. Kelly  
 Mrs B. E. Westwood  
 Ms L. Foster  
 Mr. M. Fox  
 Mr. F. Hodgkinson  
 Mr. B. Powell  
 Ms W. Duffus (Observer)

**In Attendance:-** Mrs L. Poole – Assistant Director – Access and Achievement  
 Mrs C. Beirne – Head of Educational Standards and Improvement  
 Mr. L. Haynes – Senior Finance Manager  
 Mrs D. Morris, Schools & Early Years Finance Manager  
 Ms C. Goss – Head of SEND and Inclusion  
 Ms H. Baxter – Project Officer Apprenticeships  
 Mrs B. Mycock – Clerk to Schools Forum

At the start of the meeting, the Clerk advised members that both the Chair and Vice Chair had forwarded their apologies and she reported that she had received a nomination for Tracey Coles to Chair the meeting and she enquired if there were any further nominations. Members agreed that Tracey be acting Chair.

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1. 06.03.18</b>	<b>Apologies</b>  Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Mr. Vlahakis (Chair), Dr. A. Bruton (Vice Chair), Mrs M. Sheehy, Mrs C. Draper, Mr. K. Whittlestone, Mr. A. Seager, Mr. L. Baker, Mrs H. Keenan, Mrs G. Healy, Mr. A. Beason and Mr. I. Baker. Apologies also received from Mr. A. Orlik (observer) and Mr. R. Bragger (observer)	
<b>2. 06.03.18</b>	<b>Minutes – 16 January, 2018</b>  That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 January, 2018, a copy having been previously circulated to each Member of Schools Forum, be approved and signed as a true record, subject to Dawn Morris having been omitted from the attendance list.	

<p><b>3.</b> <b>06.03.18</b></p>	<p><b>Matters Arising from the Minutes</b></p> <p><u>Item 9 – Early Help in Walsall – Developing a Collaborative and More Effective Response to Supporting Vulnerable Pupils.</u> Tracey Coles stated the bid funding discussions made clear to support from a Capital to a Revenue led model, therefore a service level agreement would be required, with the need to meet regularly and to update on how Walsall will move to a sustainable model.</p> <p>Lynda Poole advised Schools Forum there would be update items on subsequent agendas for Items 8, 9 and 10, to include money allocations and spend .</p> <p><u>Item 14 – Special Provision Fund</u> The Chair stated that Head Teachers fail to access special schools, ie. Phoenix and that Members should convey expressions of interest to funding. Claire Goss advised members that a consultation had been distributed to all schools and colleges within the local area and eventually out to the wider area.</p>	<p>Lynda Poole to provide updates in due course:</p> <p>i) Inclusion Focused Integrated Behaviour Support,</p> <p>ii) Early Help in Walsall</p> <p>iii) Sector Led Improvement Model and Approach</p>
<p><b>4.</b> <b>06.03.18</b></p>	<p><b>Late Items (urgent) to be introduced by the Chairman</b></p> <p>There were no late items.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b> <b>06.03.18</b></p>	<p><b>Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)</b></p> <p>The Forum was advised that there were no items for consideration in private session.</p>	
<p><b>6.</b> <b>06.03.18</b></p>	<p><b>Apprenticeship Levy.</b></p> <p>An update report had been submitted to inform Schools Forum that Walsall Council was in the full implementation of the Apprenticeship programme ‘Endless Possibilities’.</p> <p>Helena Baxter, Project Officer – Apprenticeships, added that a further 133 enquires had been received in additional to the 250 enquiries from internal teams and schools since July 2017, and it was estimated that by March 2018, the programme would have 100 Apprentices, which was well on the way to achieving the Public Service Target set at 174 Apprentices.</p> <p>Lesley Foster enquired whether many / any of the apprentices would be retained following their twelve month training. In response, Helena confirmed Walsall Council would look to retain the apprentices either within the authority or elsewhere within the borough.</p>	

	<p>Helena thanked Schools Forum for its positivity and enthusiasm in helping to implement the programme.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>Members noted the update.</p>	<p>Standing Item on agenda for future updates (Helena Baxter)</p>
<p><b>7.</b> <b>06.03.18</b></p>	<p><b>SENDI Update</b></p> <p>Two SEND and Inclusion Newsletters covering December 2017 to March 2018 had been submitted.</p> <p>Claire Goss, Head of SEND and Inclusion, provided additional information which included:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EHCP Manager was appointed on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2018</li> <li>• Temporary case officers' contracts extended to ensure all EHCP transfers completed before DFE guidelines of 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018</li> <li>• First SENCO workshop scheduled for 7 March, 2018</li> <li>• SENCO Forums held every half term with 25+ SENCOs having attended the most recent meeting. Next SENCO Workshop scheduled for Friday 8 June</li> <li>• New Local Offer to be brought to Schools Forum prior to launching</li> <li>• Inclusive Practice to support schools in providing 'small nurturing provision' should any school/s be struggling to provide the service</li> <li>• Joint Commissioning Framework being looked into with CCG</li> <li>• Special Schools Expansions are at the planning commissioning stage</li> <li>• An area inspection to include SEND is due to commence with a week's notice provided.</li> </ul> <p>With regards to security, Claire reported the Capital One System was completely secure but that which every operating system was adopted must be compatible and secure for all portal systems.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That Members noted the Newsletter and additional comments.</p>	<p>Standing Item on agenda for future updates (Claire Goss)</p>
<p><b>8.</b> <b>06.03.18</b></p>	<p><b>Schools Validated Results</b></p> <p>A report had been submitted to advise Schools Forum of the validated results for Walsall Schools for all key stages.</p>	

Connie Beirne, Head of Educational Standards and Improvements, elaborated on the results for each key stage for the benefit of Members which included:-

- Early Years – closing gap with national average, running a range of programme within schools having secured a number of successful bids
- Phonics – Walsall performance is always around the national average
- Key Stage 1 – Clusters are undertaking some good school to school support work. A recent round 2 SSIF bid totalling £850k to focus upon Walsall’s most underachieving group – SEN Support had been submitted but was unsuccessful to date. Walsall to challenge the bid results with HMI due to Black Country Authorities not being successful and ‘goalposts’ continually changing
- Key Stage 3 – a literacy bid involving four Walsall schools has been re-submitted by Sandwell and we should know the outcome of this bid by Easter 2018
- Key Stage 4 – DFE continue to change goal posts with progress 8, attainment 8 and a number of grading systems being introduced
- Key Stage 5 – positive picture. Pupil attainment is improving
- Next Steps – ensure schools discussions take place as part of the implementation of the Walsall Strategic Partnership Education and Inclusion Board. The Board is to be open, transparent, supportive, robust and challenging across education.

A number of queries were raised which included whether the local authority would analyse the impact of activities, look at what is making a difference to potentially signpost Head Teachers to success stories; what contact is made with other local authorities which had areas of high deprivation?

In response, members were informed that Walsall’s School Improvement Partners met with schools which presented areas of concern on a regular basis and that good practice was shared within and between local authorities.

**Resolved**

That the report be noted.

<p><b>9.</b> <b>06.03.18</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed High Needs Funding Formula 2018/19</b></p> <p>A report had been submitted, to provide Schools Forum with details of the high needs funding formula, which is the local process utilised to allocate the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding, that the Council receives to the providers of support to children with additional needs in the Borough of Walsall</p> <p>Mr. Lloyd Haynes, Senior Finance Manager, outlined the detailed report and highlighted the salient points therein.</p> <p>Mrs Fraser and Mr. Fox both made favourable comments with regards to the development of the 'bespoke funding packages' included within the local high needs funding formula from April, 2018, to support small numbers of children within Walsall, as opposed to the existing approved local funding formula whereby those children would have been supported out of borough at a high cost, out of borough placement</p> <p>Members considered the report further and it was:-</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That:-</p> <p>(a) Schools Forum noted the work undertaken by officers and the working group and recommended the local high needs funding formula that is proposed for 2018/19 to Cabinet</p> <p>(b) Schools Forum noted the recommendation would be reported to Cabinet on 21 March, 2018, to seek its approval</p> <p>(c) Schools Forum had noted the ongoing work that will be undertaken to identify the local high needs funding formula to be operated for 2019/20, and that the outcome of this work to be reported back to Schools Forum for consideration.</p>	<p>To be reported to Cabinet on 21 March, 2018</p> <p>Lloyd to report back on high needs funding formula for 2019/20 in due course.</p>
<p><b>10.</b> <b>06.03.18</b></p>	<p><b>Dates and Times for Future Meetings</b></p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Schools Forum considered the change of day from a current Tuesday evening to a Wednesday evening and to keep the current start time, and it was:-</p> <p><b>Resolved (unanimously)</b></p>	

	<p>That Schools Forum identified its preferred meeting dates for the 2018/19 meetings as follows:-</p> <p>(a) <u>Wednesdays</u>  Wednesday, 19 September, 2018 (Autumn)  Wednesday, 17 October, 2018 (Autumn)  Wednesday, 5 December, 2018 (Autumn)  Wednesday, 16 January, 2019 (Spring)  Wednesday, 13 March, 2019 (Spring)  Wednesday, 26 June, 2019 (Summer)</p> <p>(b) That, in the event of additional meetings proving necessary, special meetings to be arranged if required.</p>	
11 06.03.18	<p><b>Forward Plan</b></p> <p>The Forward Plan was submitted.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That the Forward Plan be noted.</p>	All
12. 06.03.18	<p><b>Late Items (if any)</b></p> <p>There were no late items.</p>	
13. 06.03.18	<p><b>Correspondence (if any)</b></p> <p>There was no correspondence.</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, 26 June, 2018 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall.</p>	To note
	<p>The meeting terminated at 5.05 p.m.</p>	
	<p>Signed: .....</p>	Date: .....