

Schools Forum

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 27 June, 2017 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall

Present:-

- Mr. M. Vlahakis (Chair)
- Dr. A. Bruton (Vice Chairman)
- Mrs M. Sheehy
- Ms T. Coles
- Dame Brennan
- Mrs G. Healey
- Mrs M. Yates
- Mr. F. Hodgkinson
- Mr. A. Orlik
- Mr. R. Bragger

In Attendance:-

- Mrs. J. Bonner – Head of Educational Standards and Improvements
- Mr. L. Haynes - Education Finance
- Mrs N. Hart - School Ready / Early Years Lead Adviser
- Mrs C. Goss – Head of SEND and Inclusion
- Mr. S. Laycock – Educational Psychologist
- Ms S. Hewitt - Education Welfare Officer
- Mrs B. Mycock – Democratic Services Officer

		Action
<p>1. 27.06.17</p>	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Mr. S. Davies, Mr. K. Whittlestone, Mrs C. Draper, Miss H. Keenan, Miss L. Emery, Mrs B. Westwood, Mr. B. Powell, Mr. I. Baker, Ms D. Clarke, Councillor Nawaz, Mrs L. Poole, Mr. D. Haley</p>	
<p>2. 27.06.17</p>	<p>Minutes – 7 March, 2017</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 7 March, 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.</p>	
<p>3. 27.06.17</p>	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes</p> <p>Page 4 – Rosemary Jones had been appointed the new CME officer based within Caroline Guest's team (previously Julie Newton) and that the information had been included on the Link.</p> <p>Page 5 – High Needs Special School Funding for 2017/18 - Mr Hayes advised Schools Forum the information had been included on the Link. Ms Hart further advised that all Head Teachers had been written to regarding the High Needs Special School funding for 2017/18</p>	<p>To note</p> <p>To note</p>

	<p>Page 6 – Funding Formula Working Groups:-</p> <p>i) ‘High Needs’ had met twice</p> <p>ii) ‘Schools Funding Formula’ report to next meeting. Information may be provided before Autumn term if available.</p>	Mr Hayes to provide Schools Funding Formula report to next meeting.
<p>4. 27.06.17</p>	<p>Late Items (urgent) to be introduced by the Chairman</p> <p>Children Missing Education. Update to be provided under agenda item 12.</p>	
<p>5. 27.06.17</p>	<p>Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)</p> <p>The Clerk to Schools Forum confirmed there were no items for consideration in private session.</p>	
<p>6. 27.06.17</p>	<p>Apprenticeship Levy Update</p> <p>A briefing note was submitted to provide an overview of the Apprenticeship Levy which had been implemented by the Government in April 2017.</p> <p>Ms T. Coles informed Schools Forum the new project officer, Helena Baxton, would commence on 10 July, 2017 and once in post, she would co-ordinate the working group to arrive at the financial details.</p>	
<p>7. 27.06.17</p>	<p>SEN Update</p> <p>A report was submitted to update the School Forum on the progress of the implementation of the SEND Reforms and the preparation for inspection of the local area’s effectiveness in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.</p> <p>Ms Goss confirmed members had received a copy of the report and opened up the item for questions, which included:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Is Walsall able to extend existing SEN provision?</i> At its meeting of 26th April, 2017, Cabinet agreed to increase the number of specialist school places in Walsall over the next 5 years as part of the School Place planning strategy, with 22 places to be created at existing special schools for September 2017 plus up to 28 places at other appropriate site(s) as follows:- 	

	<p>i) Oakwood School – 6 teaching spaces for high needs children of primary age</p> <p>ii) Old Hall School – creating 16 teaching places for high needs children of primary age</p> <p>iii) Other appropriate site(s) – 28 places to meet need of Key Stage 1 pupils</p> <p>Walsall’s five year Specialist School Place Planning Strategy to look at increasing the capacity of existing additional resourced provision (ARP) within existing schools to meet the needs of a broader range of children and to prevent all children from having to be sent out of borough</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Concerns re: shortage of EPs</i> Ms Goss introduced Mr Steve Laycock, the Interim Strategic Lead Educational Psychologist who had commenced with Walsall Council November 2016. Mr. Laycock provided Schools Forum with an overview of his background and experience and he advised that 1 x EP and 1 / 2 trainees were scheduled to commence in September with the possibility of 1 other EP commencing in due course. He advised of the Council’s rolling EP recruitment process to endeavour to fill all vacant places and reduce/eliminate the need for locum support. <p>In response to queries regarding the refunding of missed sessions, it was anticipated that all sessions purchased would be delivered by the end of term and that during 17/18, no session packages would be accepted unless the Council was confident they would be delivered.</p> <p>Further discussions ensued regarding ECIPs and statutory timescales and Ms Goss advised Schools Forum that working groups were currently looking into categories used within schools.</p> <p>Mrs Bonner to provide information on the Link regarding mental health funding.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the report be noted.</p>	<p>Mrs Bonner to provide information re mental health funding on the Link.</p>
<p>8. 27.06.17</p>	<p>Review of Schools Forum Membership</p> <p>Deferred to the next meeting.</p>	<p>September agenda</p>

<p>9. 27.06.17</p>	<p>School Improvement Update</p> <p>Mrs Bonner provided Schools Forum with a verbal update regarding school improvement:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Inspection outcomes</u> - last summer 10.7% below national average of good or better, which was a huge concern. Currently 4.2% below national average which was better than previously but still below average. Walsall needs 4 x primary and 1 x secondary to reach national average with no schools slipping • <u>Areas of concern</u> – weekly analysis – report to be circulated to all • <u>Recruitment:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. David Haley, Executive Director of Children’s Services leaving at the end of term and interviews will take place on 11th August. An Interim Executive Director will be in post until the successful candidate is in post ii) Paul Sheehan, Chief Executive is retiring and the closing date for applications was Friday 23rd June iii) Jane Bonner is retiring in the Autumn, the interviews for her post, Head of Educational Standards and Improvements to be held on 30 June. Jane will stay in post until the end of October to enable handover period. 	<p>Recently published category and outcomes breakdown to be emailed to all.</p>
<p>10. 27.06.17</p>	<p>Annual Report</p> <p>The report of the Democratic Services Officer was submitted to provide an annual update of the work of the Forum covering the period 20th September, 2016 to 7th March, 2017.</p> <p>Paragraph 22.1 – the first sentence should have stated ‘Schools Forum <u>did not</u> approve the centralisation of funding for general duties for 2017/18’</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>Schools Forum noted the report</p>	
<p>11. 27.06.17</p>	<p>Forward Plan</p> <p>The Forward Plan was submitted.</p>	

	<p>The Chair requested de-delegated information to be forwarded to schools as soon as possible to include a breakdown of costs. In response, Mr Haynes confirmed the information pack would be forwarded to Primary Heads around mid September subsequent to a meeting of Primary Forum to discuss the item. Forum members also requested the report to include CLEAPs.</p> <p>A further request was made for School Forum agenda papers to be distributed within the required timescale to allow time to digest them before the meeting.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Forward Plan be noted.</p>	<p>Mrs Mycock to ensure agenda papers distributed in accordance with access to info of 5 working days.</p>
<p>12. 27.06.17</p>	<p>Late Items</p> <p>Children Missing Education Update</p> <p>A report was submitted in response to a request made at Schools Forum on 7 March, 2017 for additional information to be provided with regard to the current number of children missing education (CME), the type/age range of cases and the length of time the cases have been open.</p> <p>Ms Sally-Ann Hewitt introduced herself as the new member of the Admissions and Pupil Place Planning Team and discussions ensued regarding issues faced by both schools and parents/children which included:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All secondary schools are asked to take CME pupils but dependent upon which secondary school can accommodate the pupil's chosen subjects • Whether Walsall could follow the practice carried out in Staffordshire Country Council whereby pupils' exam results were not attached to individual, allocated schools, as this affected schools GCSE and attendance stats which were subsequently taken into consideration by Ofsted. • Funding concerns for schools accepting pupils expelled from a PRU. 	

	<p>The Chair expressed concern regarding the expense incurred by schools in accommodating some CME / fair access protocol pupils and he felt schools should receive additional funding. He requested additional information to be provided to the next meeting with regard to:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) allocations – ensure a fair spread around all schools 2) funding –spending on CME 	Lloyd Haynes/ Lynda Poole to provide additional information to September meeting.
13. 27.06.17	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>There was no late correspondence.</p>	
14. 27.06.17	<p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>It was NOTED that the next meeting of Schools Forum would be held on Tuesday, 19 September, 2017 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall.</p>	
	The meeting terminated at 5.20 p.m.	
	Signed:	Date: