



### ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

| 1.0 | <b>Purpose of Report</b>  | <b>Date of meeting</b> |
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| 1.1 | The purpose of the report is to provide an annual report of the work of the Forum covering the period 19 <sup>th</sup> September, 2017 to 26 June, 2018.  |                        |
| 2.0 | <b>Schools Forum Membership</b>   |                        |
| 2.1 | A successful election resulted in the appointment of three Primary School Governor representatives.   | 19.09.17               |
| 2.2 | In accordance with the Schools Forum Regulations 2015, the Forum undertook a review of the membership to reflect an increase in the proportion of pupils attending secondary academies at the May 2017 school census, which resulted in the number of secondary school academy representatives increasing to 6.   | 19.09.17               |
| 2.3 | Schools Forum was advised of the resignations of the two Primary Academy Heads and of the maintained Secondary Head. It was agreed that maintained secondary retained the current membership of one representative to ensure representation remained broadly proportionate to the pupil numbers in each category. Following the appointment at PNS of one Primary Academy Head, the proprietor bodies of all primary academies within Walsall to be advised of a vacancy on Schools Forum and invited them to submit nominations. | 26.06.18               |
| 3.0 | <b>Fair Access Placement for Children Missing Education</b>   |                        |
| 3.1 | Schools Forum was advised of the process carried out by School Admissions in respect of CME children - secondary and primary schools located closest to a child's home address would be asked to take on a CME in the first instance under the fair access protocol. If the nearest school had already taken on a CME, all other schools would be asked to accommodate.   | 19.09.17               |
| 4.0 | <b>Schools / LA Health and Safety Matters:-</b>   |                        |
| 4.1 | Schools Forum were advised around a number of Health and Safety matters, which included:-   | 19.09.17               |
|     | i) <u>Schools Buildings – Grenfell Follow up</u><br>Council conducted joint working with partners to provide information to assess potential fire risks from building cladding  |                        |

- ii) School Visits Improvements  
An electronic schools visits management system would be piloted from October 2017.
- iii) Other School Health Matters  
Educational partnership between Birmingham City Council and RNLI to provide information to children re: water safety – canals, rivers, lakes, quarries, with the anticipation the scheme would be developed specific to Walsall.

**5.0 Proposed Implementation of a Schools National Formula and Potential Impact on the Local Funding Formula for 2018/19**

5.1 Lloyd Haynes advised members and provided them with a link to information pertaining to a move to a Schools National Funding Formula (NFF), following a consultation by DfE during 2016 and 2017 and Schools identified Members to take part in the working group. 19.09.17

**6.0 School Ready Fund**

6.1 Nicola Hart provided Schools Forum with evidence that the money allocated for School Ready Improvement had continued to be utilised to impact the outcomes for children by the end of Reception Class and members endorsed the plans for 2017/18. 19.09.17

**7.0 SENDI Updates**

7.1 Schools Forum agreed to include an SEN update as a standard agenda item at each meeting.

Claire Goss update Forum of a number of updates which included:- 17.10.17

- Parents/Carer Forum to be established
- 490 care plans remained to be transferred into EHCPs by March 2018 deadline at that time;
- Members advised of a report to Cabinet on 25.10.18 re: children with special education needs and who have SEMH who are over represented in out of borough placements

7.2 Schools Forum noted that between 2015 and 2017, Walsall had seen a 50% increase in assessments and 153 additional requests for EHCPs and that following a recruitment drive, at that time there were 8 Educational Psychologists – 3 x full time and 2 x trainees and that Walsall was still having to draw on the services of 7 x locums for statutory work. 05.12.17

7.3 Schools Forum was advised an EHCP Manager had been appointed on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2018 and that temporary case officers' contracts extended to ensure all EHCP transfers completed before DFE guideline of 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018.

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| 8.0  | <b>Apprenticeship Levy - Helena Baxter– Apprenticeship Programme Lead</b>   |          |
| 8.1  | <p>Advised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time limited and available for existing staff</li> <li>• Funding covered 30 hours standard training per week</li> <li>• Age appropriate wages</li> <li>• From Level 2 to 7 (Masters)</li> </ul>   | 19.09.17 |
| 8.2  | <p>It was reported that 26 schools were accessing the Apprenticeship Levy and there were 24 ‘new’ Apprentice Recruits.</p> <p>The funding was available for existing staff who wish to ‘upskill’ and that a Higher Level Teaching Assistant Apprenticeship was being developed. The incentive payments would be paid to the Council but schools would be able to access additional training for 16 to 18 year olds or care leavers.</p>   | 16.01.18 |
| 8.3  | <p>By March, 2018, a further 133 enquiries had been received in additional to the 250 enquiries from internal teams and schools.</p>  | 06.03.18 |
| 9.0  | <b>School Music Service 2018/19</b>   |          |
| 9.1  | <p>Schools Forum granted £38,000 music funding to Forests Arts Centre for 2018/19.</p>  | 19.09.17 |
| 10.0 | <b>Update on Funding Formula Consultations and Impact on Walsall 2017/18 Local Funding Formulas</b>   |          |
| 10.1 | <p>Schools Forum approved that pending the planned start of a move to a national funding formula in April, 2017, a 2017/18 local Schools Funding Formula be prepared on the basis of no changes to the existing formula other than a review of the current approach to growth funding, and it was noted a detailed report would be presented to Schools Forum for approval in October 2016, prior to Cabinet approval.</p> <p>A working group was established to support the Council in reviewing, rebasing and updating the current High Needs banding values, pending the move to a national funding formula in April 2018.</p> <p>A report on the 2017/18 local High Needs Funding Formula would be presented for consultation by January 2018, prior to Cabinet approval.</p> | 19.09.17 |
| 11.0 | <b>Review of Maintained School Balances</b>   |          |
| 11.1 | <p>Members were provided with a summary of balances held by maintained schools at 31 March, 2017 and following a query raised, it was confirmed each trust set its own percentage surplus balance.</p>  | 19.09.17 |

- 12.0 **Maintained Schools De-Delegation 2018/19 – Lloyd Haynes**
- 12.1 Schools Forum member representatives from maintained Secondary Schools and maintained Primary Schools considered and voted upon the de-delegation recommendations. 17.10.17
- 13.0 **Dedicated Schools Grant Update on 2016/17 Surplus and 2017/18 Position**
- 13.1 Schools Forum were advised of the forecast year end surplus position for DSG as at the end of 2017/18 and advised that unutilised surplus would be carried forward for specific projects the subsequent year. 05.12.17
- 14.0 **Early Years Funding Rates for 2018/19 and Progress of Special Schools Working Group**
- 14.2 It had been reported that following the DfE publication of the 3-4 year old provision rates, all funding received by the authority would be fully allocated for 2017/18 and with the rates retained at that level, the 2018/19 funding would continue to be fully allocated, and providers would not see a change in their overall level of funding (unless the number of hours of provision increased or decreased). The hourly rate payable for all 3-4 year old providers therefore remained at £4 per hour for 2018/19. 05.12.17
- 14.3 With regard to the review of the special schools funding formula, a fully revised formula would be in place by April 2019, and any amendments proposed would be cost neutral, i.e. the authority would neither seek to reduce or increase the costs paid from the high needs block of DSG.
- 157.0 **Review of Local Government Pension Scheme Past Service Pension – allocation Method for 2018/19**
- 15.1 Schools Forum identified Option 2 within the report as their preferred methodology for allocating the costs to individual maintained schools for 2018/19 as follows:- 05.12.17
- Option 2.** Revised method based on a differing level of allocation per school against the total in budget (assuming a charge of 2.45% of income budget for schools with an income up to £750k; 3.5% for schools with an income between £750k and £1.5m; 3.75% for schools with an income between £1.5m and £2m and 3.95% for schools with income above £2m per year)

## 16.0 Schools Funding Formula 2018/19

- 16.1 Schools Forum endorsed 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. Pupil numbers were adjusted for projected September 2018 growth in schools which have / will be expanded. This model incorporated an equivalent positive MFG of 0.10% (which was the maximum affordable within the totality of funding available). 05.12.17 and 16.01.18
- 16.2 This would see all mainstream primary and secondary schools within Walsall see a gain of at least 0.10% to their budget for 2018/19 compared to the local funding formula allocations calculated by the authority for 2017/18 (assuming no change in pupil numbers or characteristics), with a maximum gain of £179k. Again, no school would see a reduction in funding compared to the local funding formula allocations calculated by the authority for 2017/18 (assuming no change in pupil numbers or characteristics), and the distribution of gains would see an average gain of 2.08%.
- 16.3 This model also incorporates a greater alignment of the local funding formula factor values towards those set out in the NFF than that seen within model 3A above.
- 16.4 Schools Forum also approved the continuation of the working group to identify 2019/20 local funding formula.
- 16.5 Following endorsement of model 4A above in December, 2017 (see above), members summarised the final funding factors and units of resource to be utilised for 2018/19.

## 17.0 CLEAPS

- 17.1 Members resolved to remain Members of CLEAPS and to utilise Option 3 - that the Council joined on behalf of schools and that membership would be paid from a budget controlled by Schools Forum. 16.01.18

## 18.0 Developing an Inclusion Focused Integrated Behaviour Support

Members resolved to:-

- 18.1 i. ensure a reasonable timescale would be in place to develop a traded model of Integrated Behaviour Support for both primary and secondary sectors without loss of expertise. It was hoped that funding for 2018/19 would enable enough time to establish a sustainable model and the opportunity to source new markets and business opportunities; 16.01.18

- ii. ensure partnership between the Access Team and CAMHA as an innovative approach for supporting children and young people whose behaviours are linked to their mental health;
- iii. further development the service by introducing two Family Support Officer to ensure a fully collaborative approach across school and home support which is co-ordinated and interventions are complimentary being guided by the service and school in the best interests of the child;
- iv. ensure appropriate level of specialise support to help schools settle children through the Fair Access Panel and provide additional specialist support with complex cases of children missing from education;
- v. impact of the service be reviewed by Schools Forum
- vi. addition of three primary heads be included within the primary team.

#### **19.0 Early Help in Walsall – Developing a Collaborative and More Effective Response to Supporting Vulnerable Pupils**

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| 19.1 | A progress and impact report on the Early Help Model was submitted to consult on next steps in the development of the model to ensure schools are able to provide and pull on effective Early Help Support to vulnerable pupils beyond 2019. Schools Forum noted the progress, supported the proposal to sustain and enhance the existing Early Help Model until September 2019 and granted the continued investment post July 2018 at a proposed total cost of £271,800 for a further academic year, all of which was detailed within the report of 16 January, 2018. | 16.01.18 |
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#### **20.0 Walsall Strategic Partnership Education & Inclusion Board – a Sector Led Improvement Model and Approach**

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| 20.1 | Schools Forum were advised of the Walsall Strategic Partnership Education and Inclusion Board's (WSPEIB) collaborative working with the local authority and it being the accountable body for raising standards in Walsall across the education and inclusion sectors through a focus on the shared strategic priorities, and it resolved to move from the Education Challenge Board (ECB) to the WSPEIB, and to approve the request for £250,000 (2018/19) and £250,000 (2019/20) to which all members voted in favour. | 16.01.18 |
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#### **21.0 Primary Schools Expansions**

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| 21.1 | The expansions of Leighswood School, Manor Primary School, Old Church CE Primary School, Salisbury Primary School, Short Heath Foundation and St Michael's CE Primary School had been approved at Cabinet on 25 <sup>th</sup> October, 2017. | 16.01.18 |
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- 22.0 **Central Expenditure Budgets for 2018/19** 16.01.18
- 22.1 Schools Forum were advised on the proposed Central Expenditure for 2018/19 as determined by the EFA and approved the basis for central expenditure for the 2018/19 financial year.
- 23.0 **Centralisation of General Duties Funds for 2018/19** 16.01.18
- 23.1 Maintained Schools Members voted against officers recommendations and voted unanimously to request the local authority to seek to utilise unallocated DSG reserves to fund the services set out in the report for 2018/19 only, with further work to be undertaken during 2018/19 with Schools Forum members to look at options for future years.
- 24.0 **Validated Results**
- 24.1 Schools Forum was informed of the validated results for all key stages. 06.03.18
- 25.0 **Proposed High Need Funding Formula 2018/19**
- 25.1 Schools Forum noted the work undertaken by officers and the working group and recommended the local high needs funding formula be reported to Cabinet on 21 March, 2018 for approval, and ongoing work for the 2019/20 would be reported back in due course. 06.03.18
- 26.0 **Recommendation**
- 26.1 That Schools Forum notes the report

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