

Special Schools Forum

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 27th March, 2012 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall

Present:-

- Mr. S. Flynn (Chairman)
- Mr. M. Vlahakis (Vice-Chairman)
- Mrs. C. Draper
- Mrs. M. Sheehy
- Mr. D. Brownsword
- Mr. R.C. Yeomans
- Mr. G. Crowther
- Dame M. Brennan
- Mr. J.P. Clarke
- Mrs. J. Ward
- Ms. P. Hunt
- Mr. E. Gee
- Ms. M. Yates
- Mrs. M. Woodcock
- Mr. B. Powell
- Mrs. M. Robinson
- Mr. D. Clough
- Mr. R. Benton (Substitute for Mr. J. Sharma)
- Mr. A. Orlik

In Attendance:-

- Mr. D. Mortiboys - Walsall MBC
- Mr. M. Parrott - Walsall MBC

		Action
1. 27.3.12	Apologies Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Mr. F. Hodgkinson.	
2. 27.3.12	Late items to be introduced by the Chairman The Chairman introduced a late item relating to "Education Funding Announcement: School Funding Reform: Next Steps Towards a Fairer System" and confirmed that it would be taken at the end of the meeting.	
3. 27.3.12	Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended) There were no items for consideration in the private session.	

<p>4. 27.3.12</p>	<p>Transition to Music Education Hub: 2012-2015 - Contextual Information for Schools Forum</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Mr. Parrott highlighted the points contained in the report and informed the Forum that a large number of Primary and Secondary school pupils attended the Pathways for which the £38,000 support had been requested. The activities reciprocated all the services within schools.</p> <p>Dame Brennan referred to funding that was previously agreed for a two year period and asked what steps the music service had taken to continue providing the service without additional support from the Forum.</p> <p>Mr. Parrott confirmed that the music service had suffered from year on year cuts and had tried to work within budget. The funding from Schools Forum limited the cuts from the portfolio and the loss of funding would lead to a reduction in opportunities for activities for the benefit of the children in Walsall. A number of Primary Head Teachers spoke in support of the music service and the benefits to their pupils from attendance at activities at Forest Arts Centre during the evenings.</p> <p>With regard to Secondary school pupils using the service, Head Teachers requested information on the numbers of their pupils using Forest Arts Centre and the type of activities they were involved in.</p> <p>Members referred to the benefit to Primary School pupils using the service that transferred with them into their secondary education.</p> <p>Mr. Mortiboys informed the Forum that an explanation was required on the use of the funding for inclusion in the Section 251 statement for submission to the Department for Education by the end of March. The funding for the music service should be included in the combined budget line and approval of Schools Forum was required.</p> <p>Following support for the music service, Mr. Crowther requested that this be included in the Forum's Forward Plan. Mr. Clarke concurred with this view and referred to the need for the Forum to work with the music service and that the service</p>	<p>Include in Forward Plan</p>
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	<p>should publicise its activities more widely.</p> <p>Mr. Parrott informed the Forum that, in view of Government policy and the way music services were funded, the service worked in particular with Key Stage 2 and Walsall had achieved top status in the country in Key Stage 2.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That Schools Forum agree to £38,000 being allocated to support the music service for 2012/13, to be costed against the combined services budget.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Mr. Parrott for his presentation.</p>	
<p>5. 27.3.12</p>	<p>Education Funding Announcement: School Funding Reform: Next Steps Towards a Fairer System</p> <p>Mr. Mortiboys informed the Forum that he had received a document from the Department for Education relating to school funding reform and a response to the document was required by 21st May, 2012.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That Mr. Mortiboys be delegated authority, in consultation with the Chairman, to formulate a response on the Education Funding Announcement: School Funding Reform: Next Steps Towards a Fairer System on behalf of the Forum.</p>	<p>Dan Mortiboys/ Chairman</p>
<p>6. 27.3.12</p>	<p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>It was NOTED that the next meeting of Schools Forum would be held on Tuesday, 12th June, 2012 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall.</p>	

The meeting terminated at 4.45 p.m.