

## Schools Forum

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2013 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall

**Present:-** Mr. M. Vlahakis (Chairman)  
Dr. A. Bruton (Vice-Chairman)  
Mrs. C. Draper  
Mrs. M. Sheehy  
Ms. T. Coles  
Mr. G. Crowther  
Dame M. Brennan  
Mr. J.P. Clarke  
Mrs. B.E. Westwood  
Ms. M. Yates  
Mr. B. Powell  
Mr. M. Ison  
Mr. S. Pritchard-Jones  
Ms. H. Harnisch  
Mr. R. Bragger

**In Attendance:-** Mr. D. Mortiboys - Education Finance, Walsall MBC  
Ms. D. Morris - Education Finance, Walsall MBC  
Ms. J. Bonner - Children's Services  
Ms. K. Dainty - Integrated Behaviour Support Service

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b> <b>3.12.13</b>	<b>Apologies</b>  Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Mrs. J. Ward, Mrs. M. Woodcock, Mrs. G. Healy and Messrs. N. Smith, A. Orlik, F. Hodgkinson and J. Murray.	
<b>2.</b> <b>3.12.13</b>	<b>Minutes - 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2013</b>	The minutes of the meeting held on 15 <sup>th</sup> October, 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
<b>3.</b> <b>3.12.13</b>	<b>Matters arising from the minutes</b>  Mr. Ison referred to Minute No. 7(1) on page 4 relating to Finalisation of De-delegation discussions and informed the Forum that a free school meals	

	<p>service was available via the Internet for 90p per meal as opposed to £19.66 as quoted. This was applicable to Academies and it had worked well.</p>	
<p><b>4.</b> <b>3.12.13</b></p>	<p><b>Late items to be introduced by the Chairman</b></p> <p>There were no late items for introduction by the Chairman.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b> <b>3.12.13</b></p>	<p><b>Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)</b></p> <p>There were no items for consideration in the private session.</p>	
<p><b>6.</b> <b>3.12.13</b></p>	<p><b>Next steps for the development of the integrated behaviour support services</b></p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Karen Dainty (Integrated Behaviour Support Service) drew the Forum's attention to the slides indicating Next Steps, giving a summary of the service going forward into 2014.</p> <p>Secondary colleagues engaged in partnership meetings but this facility was not available in the primary sector. Consideration could be given to a similar inclusion panel or provision could be achieved through the learning consortium and clusters. The service worked with partner agencies and had completed successful projects in the secondary sector; the aim was to provide a high profile service in schools to support pupils and providing the biggest impact.</p> <p>In order to map out additional support and build capacity within schools and within teams, it would be necessary to confirm a core offer Primary colleagues could consider setting up a Working Group or use the learning consortium as a task and finish group to consider a process for behaviour support. The service had been approached by Academies interested in buying in to the service but maintained primary schools that had de-delegated their budget would have first priority on the service. Those buying in the service would fund additional</p>	

	<p>staff as required.</p> <p>After consideration it was,</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That the Next Steps for the Development of the Integrated Behaviour Support Service be referred to Primary Forum for consideration.</p>	Karen Dainty
<p><b>7.</b> <b>3.12.13</b></p>	<p><b>Special schools funding formula</b></p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Mrs. Morris highlighted the contents of the report, in particular, the significant reduction in budget share in respect of special schools for 2014/15 and transitional arrangements. The Department for Education had confirmed that the Local Authority could request a disapplication of the minimum funding guarantee, subject to transitional arrangements being in place.</p> <p>In response to questions, Mrs. Morris confirmed that two MLD schools were full for 2014/15 and the overall high needs places could not be exceeded.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That the content of the report be noted.</p>	
<p><b>8.</b> <b>3.12.13</b></p>	<p><b>National funding formula (NFF) Update</b></p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That the contents of the report be noted.</p>	
<p><b>9.</b> <b>3.12.13</b></p>	<p><b>Schools Funding Formula 2014/15</b></p> <p>Mr. Mortiboy informed the Forum that the official proforma would be submitted to the DfE on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2014, the numbers submitted would be based on the October census. Consideration would need to be given to the contingency level and how the £2.5 million surplus would be worked back into</p>	

	<p>the formula; it would also be necessary to ensure that there were no surplus figures in the DSG next year. There were concerns around forecasting special educational needs.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Forum on the schools funding formula 2014/15.</p>	
<p><b>10. 3.12.13</b></p>	<p><b>Revised Schools Forum Constitution</b></p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Mrs. Ensor confirmed that the changes to the Constitution had been made in order to reflect the changes in membership as agreed at the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2013.</p> <p>Members requested that reference to “his” be amended to read “his/her”.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That Schools Forum agree the revised Constitution as set out, subject to the amendment referred to above.</p>	
<p><b>11. 3.12.13</b></p>	<p><b>Music Service contribution</b></p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>In response to points raised, Mrs. Coles informed the Forum that she was a member of the Head Teacher Steering Group for the Hub and confirmed that funding from the Arts Council had been considerably reduced; the Department for Education no longer gave grants. She referred to the requirement in the national curriculum at Key Stages 1 and 2 with regard to the provision for music and musical instruments and was of the view that any delay in considering this matter would have implications on staffing levels.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b> (2 Members abstaining)</p> <p>(1) That a continuation of funding from Schools Forum for the music service be approved for</p>	

	<p>the 2014/15 financial year without prejudice to other services;</p> <p>(2) That a report be included on the Forward Plan for September, 2014 regarding the music service budget.</p>	
<p><b>12.</b> <b>3.12.13</b></p>	<p><b>Premature Retirement Policy Update</b></p> <p>Mrs. Sheehy informed the Forum that a presentation would be submitted to the NJC on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2014, the decision to grant premature retirement lies with the Governing Body and the wording had been amended as follows:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“It is the decision of the Governing Body of each school as to whether or not it will offer any premature retirement compensation. In cases where Governing Bodies decision is to offer such compensation, the decision must be endorsed by the Local Authority.”</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That the present position be noted.</p>	
<p><b>13.</b> <b>3.12.13</b></p>	<p><b>Forward Plan</b></p> <p>The Forward Plan was submitted.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That the Forward Plan be approved as set out, subject to the inclusion of “Consideration of the music service budget” being submitted to the September, 2014 meeting.</p>	
<p><b>14.</b> <b>3.12.13</b></p>	<p><b>Late items to be introduced by the Chairman</b></p> <p>There were no late items for introduction by the Chairman.</p>	
<p><b>15.</b> <b>3.12.13</b></p>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>There was no correspondence received.</p>	

<p><b>16.</b> <b>3.12.13</b></p>	<p><b>Retirement - Mr. J. Clarke</b></p> <p>The Chairman reminded Members that Mr. Clarke would be retiring from his post as Head Teacher of Pool Hayes Arts and Community School at Christmas.</p> <p>The Forum passed onto Mr. Clarke their best wishes in his retirement.</p>	
<p><b>17.</b> <b>3.12.13</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, 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall.</p>	

The meeting terminated at 4.40 p.m.