

## Schools Forum

**Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2011 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall**

**Present:-** Mr. S. Flynn (Chairman)  
Mr. J. Baker (Vice-Chairman)  
Mr. D. Brownsword  
Mr. R.C. Yeomans  
Mr. G. Crowther  
Dame M. Brennan  
Mr. J.P. Clarke  
Ms. H. Lomas  
Mrs. J. Ward  
P. Hunt  
Ms. M. Yates  
Mrs. M. Woodcock  
Mr. F. Hodgkinson  
Mr. D. Clough  
Ms. J. Mayo

**In Attendance:-** Ms. J. Taylor (Walsall Children's Services - Serco)  
Ms. D. Morris (Walsall Children's Services - Serco)  
Mr. D. Mortiboys (Walsall MBC)  
Mr. C. Knowles (Walsall MBC)

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1. 8.11.11</b>	<b>Apologies</b>  Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Mrs. C. Draper, Ms. M. Sharratt, Mrs. M. Robinson, Ms. J. Morgan and Mr. J. Sharma.	
<b>2. 8.11.11</b>	<b>Minutes - 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2011</b>	The minutes of the meeting held on 27 <sup>th</sup> September, 2011 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
<b>3. 8.11.11</b>	<b>Matters arising from the minutes</b>  There were no matters arising from the minutes.	

<p><b>4. 8.11.11</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>5. 8.11.11</b></p>	<p><b>School Finance Regulations 2012-13</b></p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That the Forum note the likely changes to the School Finance Regulations and that the Local Authority would request the DfE to clarify within the Regulations the situation in respect of excluded pupils moving between a maintained school and an Academy.</p>	<p>Julie Taylor</p>
<p><b>6. 8.11.11</b></p>	<p><b>16 - 19 Funding Consultation</b></p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>The consultation related to the points contained in Paragraph 17 of the extract from the YPLA "16 - 19 Formula Review Consultation" October, 2011.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That a Task and Finish Sub-Group consisting of the following be established to draft a strategic response to the 16 - 19 funding formula review consultation document, the draft response to be circulated to all Secondary Heads and referred back to Schools Forum at its meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2011:-</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mr. S. Flynn, Mr. G. Crowther and Mr. J.P. Clarke</p>	<p>Sean Flynn</p>
<p><b>7. 8.11.11</b></p>	<p><b>Standards Fund Shortfall 2010-11</b></p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>With regard to the full payment by the DfE of the 2010-11 Standards Fund Grant over the current spending review period, Ms. Taylor confirmed that</p>	

the shortfall payments would be phased from now up to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2015. Local Authorities would be advised of the method of repayment later this term. As the Local Authority could not return funds to schools at present, the shortfall would be fed into the budget projections and Schools Forum would be kept informed of the progress.

Ms. Taylor informed the Forum that the DfE had indicated that there was no longer a need for a balance control mechanism, although Walsall operated this voluntarily and the shortfall funds paid to schools should not introduce problems as the payments would be phased over a three year period.

In response to questions, Ms. Taylor stated that the final close down for Sneyd School balances would be added to the total resource from Government next year as part of DSG, taking into account budget pressures and bearing in mind that this would be a one-off payment.

**Resolved**

- (1) That approval be given to allocating the total sum of £324,233 from the unallocated Standards Fund Grant as follows, in order of priority: -

Targeted support for Primary strategy	£159,959
Targeted support for Secondary strategy	£99,240
1-2-1 tuition	£65,034

- (2) That the remainder of the grant be fed into schools budgets through the funding formula;
- (3) That any schools accumulating balances above 5% as a result of the phased payments of the shortfall be accepted as an exception.

<p><b>8.</b> <b>8.11.11</b></p>	<p><b>2011-12 Per Pupil Funding Analysis</b></p> <p>A report was submitted, together with the full IDACI analysis and free school meals data for every school in Walsall.</p> <p>Ms. Taylor went through the report and explained the calculations used. Ms. Morris stated that Section 52 had been used for the whole of the budget share and variations across all the sections, as well as the circumstances within schools which would then produce the funding. Additional funding was also in place for pupils with low attainment.</p> <p>Ms. Morris confirmed that all schools had a level of deprivation identified. The reports circulated highlighted the extremes. IDACI was based on the post code of the child not the post code of the school. She also confirmed that the higher the percentage, the greater the deprivation and post 16 pupils were excluded from the calculations. The SEN additional resource provision included deprivation indicators and the same methodology was used as for primary schools.</p> <p>Ms. Morris confirmed that the multiple index of deprivation as provided by the data team excludes free school meals data for formula purposes. The data from 2010 had been used. Every school received funding for personalised learning but this was only shown for schools above or below 10%.</p> <p>Members referred to the number of parents that refused to take up free school meals and asked whether the Local Authority could make progress on gaining information on eligibility.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That officers be requested to provide the Forum with additional information on free school meals and IDACI for all schools and merged into the original document to show the data for every school;</p> <p>(2) That the Chairman write to local MPs, the Secretary of State for Education, and local Councillors providing them with the information charts on free school meals and</p>	<p>Julie Taylor/Dan Mortiboys</p>
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	IDACI indicating that the system was not working effectively.	
<b>9. 8.11.11</b>	<p><b>Spending of contingency money 2011/12 (School to School Support)</b></p> <p>Mr. Baker informed the Forum that there was still £200,000 in the school to school support for primary schools and, in view of the lack of take up, Primary Heads had requested that the funding be returned to primary schools.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That the funding in the primary school to school support programme be discussed at the next Primary Forum meeting.</p>	Julie Taylor
<b>10. 8.11.11</b>	<p><b>Forward Plan</b></p> <p>The Forward Plan was submitted.</p> <p>Members agreed to include an additional meeting of the Forum to take place on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2012 at Blakenall Village Centre at 4.00 p.m.</p> <p>That up-to-date information on the spending of contingency money 2011/12 be submitted to the December meeting of the Forum.</p>	
<b>11. 8.11.11</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>The Chairman referred to an e-mail he had received from Legal and Constitutional Services on behalf of the Chair of the Scrutiny Panel inviting him to attend the Scrutiny Panel meeting at 6.00 p.m. today. The Panel was keen to gain further information on the Forum's consideration of the transportation of children from the former Sneyd School to Brownhills School. A written summary of the discussion had also been requested. The Chair stated that he had responded to the e-mail indicating that he would not be available to attend the meeting but had indicated that he would be happy to speak with the Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel informally, however, no response had yet been received.</p>	

<b>12.</b> <b>8.11.11</b>	<b>Date and time of next meeting</b>  It was <b>NOTED</b> that the next meeting of Schools Forum would be held on Tuesday, 6 <sup>th</sup> December, 2011 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall.	
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The meeting terminated at 5.25 p.m.