

## Schools Forum

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2012 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall

**Present:-** Mr. S. Flynn (Chairman)  
Mrs. M. Sheehy  
Mr. D. Brownsword  
Mr. R.C. Yeomans  
Mr. G. Crowther  
Dame M. Brennan  
Ms. H. Lomas  
Mrs. J. Ward  
Ms. P. Hunt  
Mr. E. Gee  
Mrs. M. Yates  
Mrs. M. Woodcock  
Mr. F. Hodgkinson  
Mr. B. Powell  
Mrs. M. Robinson  
Mr. D. Clough

**In Attendance:-** Ms. J. Taylor (Walsall Children's Services - Serco)

		Action
<b>1.</b> <b>28.2.12</b>	<b>Apologies</b>  Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Mr. J.P. Clarke and Mr. M. Vlahakis.  The Chairman welcomed Mr. B. Powell, new Member representing special schools.  The Chairman agreed to take the item relating to the new partnership with schools first and a short presentation was received from Mr. D. Meredith (secondary sector) and Mr. D. Porter (primary sector).	
<b>2.</b> <b>28.2.12</b>	<b>The new partnership with schools</b>  Mr. Meredith informed the Forum that he was currently a secondary head teacher at a school in Sandwell and had been seconded for two days a week to work for Walsall to support the Local Authority in developing a new operating model and new relationship with schools by the end of August,	

	<p>2013 when the Serco contract would end. Meetings were taking place with head teachers to gain information and knowledge about the requirements of Walsall head teachers when the contract ends. Work was ongoing to produce a draft model for final presentation to head teachers for their opinion. The model would build in flexibility to ensure that everyone worked together efficiently and effectively in the future and maintain relationships with primary and secondary colleagues, staff, teachers and Governors.</p> <p>In response to points raised, Mr. Meredith confirmed that he would check the criteria to ensure that special schools were included.</p> <p>Mr. Meredith and Mr. Porter (a primary school head teacher in Dudley) answered a number of questions raised by Members of the Forum and it was agreed that as many people as possible be included in the consultation process.</p> <p>Members thanked Messrs. Meredith and Porter for their brief introduction and looked forward to receiving further details from them in due course.</p>	
<p><b>3.</b> <b>28.2.12</b></p>	<p><b>Minutes - 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2012</b></p>	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2012 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.</p>
<p><b>4.</b> <b>28.2.12</b></p>	<p><b>Matters arising from the minutes</b></p> <p>The Chairman requested information in relation to page 3, paragraph 3, relating to the “ever six” data on free school meals.</p> <p>Ms. Taylor referred to information that had been received from the DfE on the “ever six” children which had been converted into an excel spreadsheet at LA level. There were a number of problems being experienced in view of Academy information systems which meant that there was still not a complete dataset for Academies. Ms. Taylor confirmed that the information included related to the January, May and October censuses going back</p>	

	<p>to Summer 2006. The final pupil numbers would be confirmed by the DfE at the end of June. The Ever 6 data estimated that there was some £8 million worth of pupil premium for the children listed. Ms. Taylor agreed to send the link to all head teachers in order that they could access the information available.</p> <p>With regard to page 3 - Education Funding Announcement 2012 - 13, the Forum was advised that information from Jane Bonner was available for Members to take away regarding the work of ASTs.</p> <p>Page 6 - Late Item - the Chairman informed Members that information on Governor support from Jane Bonner was available for Members to take away at the end of the meeting.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b> <b>28.2.12</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>6.</b> <b>28.2.12</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>7.</b> <b>28.2.12</b></p>	<p><b>Schools Forum Governance</b></p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Ms. Taylor introduced the report and highlighted the powers and responsibilities of Schools Forum.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That the content of the report be noted.</p>	
<p><b>8.</b> <b>28.2.12</b></p>	<p><b>National figures on school balances</b></p> <p>A report was submitted.</p>	

	<p>Ms. Taylor reminded the Forum that it had decided to retain the balance control mechanism as this was good practice and schools going down the Academy route would still have controls in place. It would be appropriate to review the process when the new funding formula and framework was available.</p> <p>The Forum was advised that the carry forward for Academies was 10% in capital and 2% in revenue. There was very little money clawed back through the balance control mechanism but the scheme did focus financial planning.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That the contents of the report which highlights that there was sound financial stewardship across Walsall schools be noted.</p>	<p>Julie Taylor to report to next meeting on school budgets</p>
<p><b>9. 28.2.12</b></p>	<p><b>Scheme for financing schools - potential changes around insurance and premature retirement in line with DfE guidance</b></p>	<p>A report be submitted to a future meeting</p>
<p><b>10. 28.2.12</b></p>	<p><b>Dates for future meetings 2012/13</b></p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That, subject to availability of the venue identified, the timetable for the meetings of the Forum be agreed for the year as follows, the meetings to be held at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2012 (Summer)  Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2012  Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2012 (Autumn)  Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 (Autumn)  Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2013 (Spring)  Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2013  Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2013 (Spring)  Tuesday,, 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2013</p>	

	<p>(2) That, in the event of additional meetings proving necessary, provisional dates be agreed as follows:-</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2012</p>	
<p><b>11.</b> <b>28.2.12</b></p>	<p><b>Forward Plan</b></p> <p>The Forward Plan was submitted.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Scheme for financing schools - potential changes around insurance and premature retirement in line with DfE guidance be submitted to a future meeting.</p>	
<p><b>12.</b> <b>28.2.12</b></p>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>None received.</p>	
<p><b>13.</b> <b>28.2.12</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, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2012 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall.</p>	

The meeting terminated at 4.55 p.m.